

No 61.633

THE TIMES Saturday

Emperor... How Napoleon turned the tables at wargames. Waltz

all the way to Matilda with air fare specials to the Antipodes. Glass... Seeing through the double-glazing sales talk. Menagerie Bernard Levin considers the curious behaviour of lemmings... and headline-writers.

Dublin tells Mugabe of its concern

The Irish Government yesterday told Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, of its concern over six Zimbabwe air force officers still detained in his country, sources in Dublin said last night.

Chile arrest

A former president of the Chilean Senate, Señor Patricio Aylwin, was arrested during violent demonstrations on the fifth day of protest against President Pinochet's Government.

Airport attack

Two light aircraft piloted by rebel exiles fired rockets at Managua international airport and the area around the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister's home, causing heavy damage.

Oil auction fear

The Government is worried about the impact on its North Sea oil revenues of BP's plan to auction part of its holding in the Forties field.

Smokers' hope

Smokers trying to give up the habit should be encouraged by a report which says that more than half do not find it difficult to stop.

NHS ultimatum

Health authorities have been told to seek private tenders for health service cleaning and catering and to report progress by February.

Miser's fortune

A miserly widow has died leaving £350,000 without a will. Unless a relative is found the money will go to the Exchequer.

Heart drugs

A new drug to treat strokes and heart attacks is to be developed in Britain for a Japanese manufacturer.

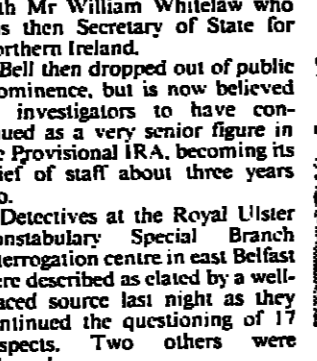
RFU appeal

The Rugby Union have asked 120 top players to sign a declaration that they will not play for the proposed professional circus.

Table with 3 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Business, Court, Crossword, Diary, Motoring, Science, Sport, TV & Radio, Theatres, etc., Weather, Wills.

IRA's Ulster chief arrested as supergrass talks

The IRA's Northern Ireland chief and the man alleged to be the terrorist group's Belfast leader were reported to be under arrest last night as a former leading Provisional turned "supergrass" continued to give names to police.



Ivor Bell: IRA's Ulster chief of staff.

The 17 were all arrested on information provided by Mr Lean, aged 37, the latest potentially most valuable Provisional IRA "supergrass".

TUC takes a softer line on disarmament

Trade union leaders yesterday took the first step away from a fundamental unilateralist position on nuclear disarmament in a move that was seen by moderate unions as a significant shift on policy.

Unions give pledge of support for Solidarity

The TUC gave a fresh commitment yesterday of support for the Solidarity movement in Poland in the wake of the controversy of Mr Arthur Scargill's letter to a Trotskyist newspaper condemning the free trade union.

Child sex group men arrested

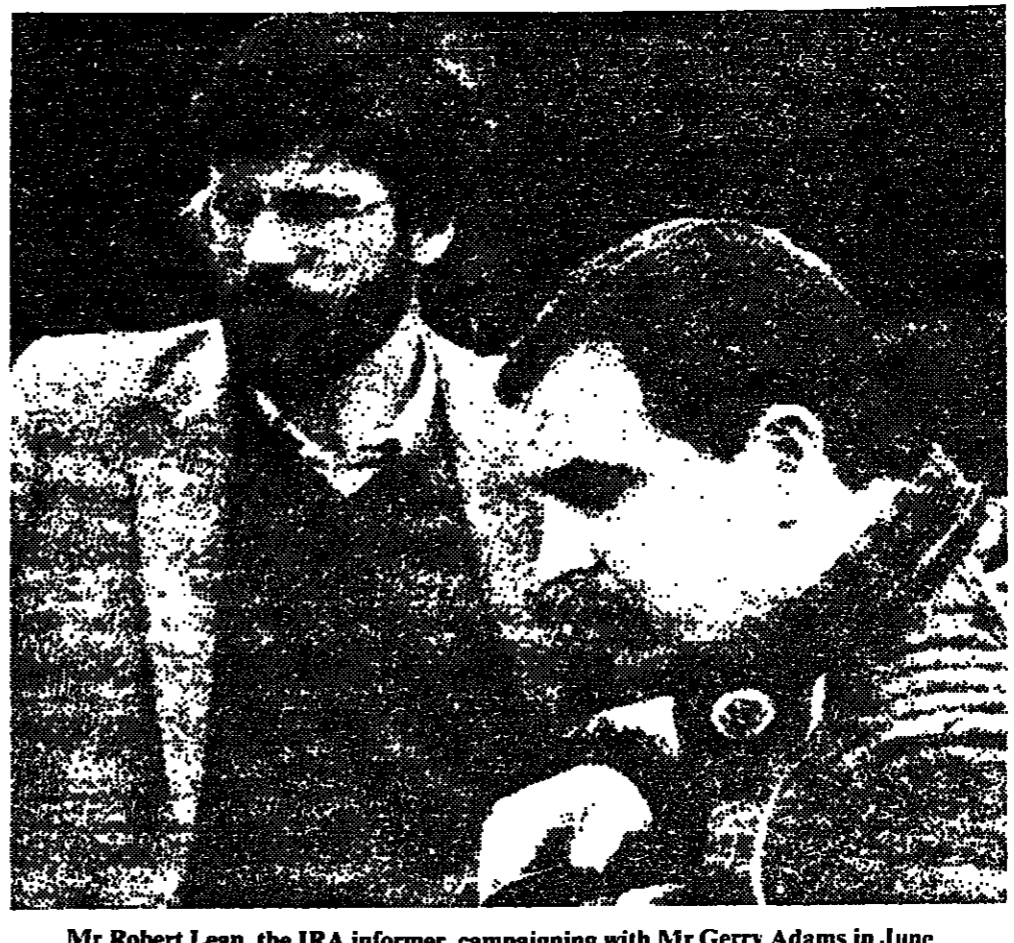
Three members of the Paedophile Information Exchange will appear at Bromley Magistrates' Court today. Two of them have been charged with seven offences under four Acts of 1953.

Irish vote 2-1 for law to ban abortion

The proposal to amend the Irish constitution to include a ban on abortion has been carried by a two to one majority in the referendum in the Irish Republic.

US warships shell Lebanese militias

It was the first time the Americans had used their naval artillery since the Marines arrived almost a year ago. The four rounds were fired from the frigate Bowen.



Mr Robert Lean, the IRA informer, campaigning with Mr Gerry Adams in June.

Reagan to step up sanctions after grim Madrid meeting

As Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, abruptly cut short a sour meeting in Madrid yesterday with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, because "he was getting nowhere" over the Korean airliner tragedy.

Mortimer warns Labour 'act now'

The Labour Party is today given an official warning that fundamental action is needed to reverse its 30-year decline.

There's something new in the air!

Advertisement for SAA (South African Airways) featuring the slogan 'There's something new in the air!' and details about flights to Johannesburg.

Multinational peace force hits back

US warships shell Lebanese militias

Irish vote 2-1 for law to ban abortion

US warships shell Lebanese militias

Yesterday, in what appeared to be a decision by the Lebanese Army to prepare for deployment in the Chouf and Aley mountain districts, it called up reserves.

Large advertisement for SAA (South African Airways) with the slogan 'There's something new in the air!' and contact information for various offices.

Handwritten Arabic text: هكزا من الاصل

Fowler demands action report by February on NHS contract services

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities were told yesterday to seek private tenders for National Health Service cleaning, catering and laundry services in a circular demanding progress reports by February.

The services cost the health service £900m a year, of which only £18m is spent on contracted out services. Ministers believe that some hospitals could save up to 20 per cent of the cost by letting contracts privately.

Despite exhortations, there has been no sign of a pronounced move by health authorities to contract out those services, although there has been an increase in privatizing building maintenance, engineering and equipment maintenance work.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, emphasized yesterday that savings from contracting out would be made available for patient care, and that contracts should be let privately only where there were savings.

But his department is in dispute with Calderdale and Yorkshire health authorities which claim that £250,000 a year could be saved by an in-house laundry service compared with the nearest private bidder. Ministers have ordered Yorkshire

region to tell Calderdale to let the contract privately because they object to the £2m capital cost the proposal would involve.

The circular exempts private contractors from value-added tax but does not spell out the fact that outside firms will not be required to pay Whitley Council rates to their employees, as health authorities have to do.

The circular, which has raised union opposition after it was leaked to *The Times* last week, was published on the day the TUC in Blackpool was debating privatization.

Mr John Edmonds, health service officer of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Workers Trade Union, accused the Government of putting party dogma before people's health.

It pretended a concern for fair competition, but was exempting private contractors from tax while keeping the differential rate of employers' national insurance surcharge; private contractors would pay 1 per cent compared with the health service's 2.5 per cent, he said.

Mr Dennis Davies, a contender for the Labour Party deputy leadership, said the circular would lead to decent medical services



Silver age of the Shadows

When *The Shadows* first took to the stage on October 5, 1958 under the name of *The Drifters* little did they realize that they would father the expression pop group and pioneer the format of two electric guitars, bass and drums.

Since then the group has had 31 hit singles in Britain and released more than 150 albums throughout the world.

Next month the group, who long ago came out of the shadow of Cliff Richard, embark on a lengthy silver anniversary tour of Britain.

The group's original line-up behind Cliff Richard was Hank Marvin and Bruce Welch on guitars; Tony Meehan on drums (replaced in 1961 by Brian Bennett) and Jet Harris on bass.

The line-up for the latest tour will be Bennett, Marvin and Welch.

Yesterday the group's autobiography, *The Story of The Shadows*, written in conjunction with Mike Read, the disc jockey, was published and they were guests at a luncheon in London organized by the charity Music Therapy.



Now and then: Brian Bennett (left), Hank Marvin and Bruce Welch (top), who will tour next month, and Bruce and Hank flanking Cliff Richard (below). (Top photograph: Tony Weaver).

Campaign over health cuts

By our Social Services Correspondent

The Royal College of Nursing claimed yesterday that the Government's call for staff cuts in the health service was bringing it close to breaking the law. One of its leading members urged the Government to resign and call a general election on the issue.

The comments came at a press conference to launch the college's own campaign against spending and staffing cuts, which it was claimed were endangering the survival of the health service.

Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary, said the situation was too serious for the college to wait for the full returns from its members on the effects of the cuts.

He said that the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Norman Fowler, had a legal duty to promote a comprehensive health service to secure improvement in the physical and mental health of the people and in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness. He challenged Mr Fowler, and the Government to say how they were carrying out those duties.

The cuts would mean fewer nurses, and that would mean lowering standards.

Mr Clay said the RCN council believed the staffing targets were a device to force health authorities to contract out services, and the college would join with other organizations to fight the cuts. He could not rule out the possibility

of taking court action against Mr Fowler for neglecting his duty under the health service Acts.

Mr Alan Giles, chairman of the RCN Council, said: "The NHS is rapidly developing into a rut situation. I am not prepared to officiate over the last rites of the NHS."

Nurses in Oxfordshire are being asked to pay towards their training. A trust fund has been set up to collect a voluntary contribution of 50p a month from each of the 4,000 nurses in the county.

Miss Jackie Flindall, chief nursing officer for the Oxfordshire Health Authority, says self-help is the only way to pay for further training for qualified nurses.

Dartington parents to meet about school

By Craig Seton

Parents of children at the progressive Dartington Hall School in Devon, which is the second most expensive public school in Britain, are being called to a meeting on Sunday which is likely to lead to calls for Mr Lynn Blackshaw, its headmaster, to resign or for him to be dismissed.

The meeting has been arranged after the continued controversy over the running of the school since Mr Blackshaw arrived earlier this year. Four pupils have been expelled, some members of staff have resigned, and Mr Blackshaw has written a six-page letter to parents alleging that some pupils have been involved in burglaries, sexual activities, drugs and vandalism.

One parent said yesterday, some of the 300 pupils at the school, which charges fees of between £1,200 and £5,800, are likely to be withdrawn if Mr Blackshaw continues as headmaster.

Up to 50 parents may attend the meeting in Totnes, Devon, on Sunday. Mrs Shirley Newbury, whose son aged 18 is a pupil, said yesterday that she had written to the school's seven trustees asking for action against Mr Blackshaw.

She claimed parents were upset by Mr Blackshaw's handling of problems at Dartington.

Mr David Gribble, a member of staff at Dartington for 22 years, who resigned as headmaster of the junior and middle school last month, said yesterday that it was essential to restore the reputation of the staff and that of the school "as it used to be".

A spokesman for the school's trustees said yesterday that they had no plans to issue a statement. He refused to comment on a report that parents were about to receive a letter from trustees giving their support to Mr Blackshaw.

Nursing home bills criticized

By David Nicholson-Lord

Some private nursing homes are refusing to make refunds to the families of patients who die at the start of the monthly charging period and are presenting them with bills of several hundred pounds in lieu of notice, it was claimed yesterday.

A West Yorkshire solicitor Mr Ian Holdsworth, said in a letter to the *Law Society's Gazette* that the nursing homes had not informed families of the practice until the bill had been presented.

In two recent cases, in Wakefield and Bradford, elderly women died or were taken from the home to hospital on the first and third days of the month. The homes charged £300 and £400 their fees for the full four weeks.

The general secretary of the Registered Nursing Home Association, Mr Stanley Davis, said charging for the full month in lieu of notice was "exceptional".

"Usually it is in the range of one or two weeks."

Farmers worried by sheep-dipping drive

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Government plans to introduce compulsory sheep dipping for the second time this year in certain areas have encountered opposition from farmers, who say it will affect the animals' sex lives and will lead to fewer lambs being conceived.

The Ministry of Agriculture is seriously worried by the high incidence of sheep scab. Although farmers throughout Britain were ordered to dip their sheep between July 3 and August 27, outbreaks of the disease are about twice last year's level.

It has therefore proposed a second compulsory dipping period between November 5 and December 2 in three areas: Somerset, Devon and Cornwall; Ceredigion and Shropshire; and Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire.

But that is also the time of year for "tapping", when the ewes are put to the ram. The Somerset branch of the National Farmers' Union says the stress which the animals suffer from dipping could lead to a serious fall in conceptions.

The branch's general purposes committee has declared that it cannot see that the ministry's proposals are either sensible or necessary.

Farmland price rises

A continuing steady rise in the average price of farmland with vacant possession in England is shown by the Ministry of Agriculture's latest survey.

In contrast, prices in Scotland fell quarter between the first and second quarters of this year, according to the Scottish Landowners' Federation.

The average price in England for the three months ended in July was a record of about £1,950 an acre. That was more than 20 per cent higher than in September last year.

In Scotland the average price of arable land dropped to £1,410 in the quarter ended July, from were down from £970 to £885 an acre.

Punch-up threat to heart man

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Mr Norman Meredith, a heart hospital patient, was back in hospital last night after being injured in an accident less than a week after returning home from his operation.

Mr Meredith, aged 33, of Abercromby Road, Aberystwyth, mid-Glamorgan, was taken to hospital after being struck by a car in his first shopping trip since returning home from Herefield Hospital in Middlesex.

Mr Meredith said it was only when he was recovering from the operation six weeks ago that he managed to persuade the motorist not to punch him.

"I started to cross the main road when I heard tyres screeching and was struck by the car and dragged across the road," he said. "The motorist leapt out of his car and grabbed my arm. He was shouting and swearing and seemed to want a punch-up."

Mr Meredith was last night being taken back to Herefield Hospital but doctors said that the latest problem was unconnected

Hattersley calls for maximum prison sentences

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow spokesman on home affairs and a contender for Labour's leadership, said yesterday that there should be a reduction in the maximum prison sentences available to the courts.

He said that appeals for judges to introduce voluntary curbs on sentencing policy had failed. "We have to legislate for a maximum which cannot be exceeded." This was the only way to "cut down sentences," he said.

He urged Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, to reject suggestions that fixed sentences should be applied in cases of murder. He said: "I hope and almost pray that he is not going to have any truck with this nonsense of a maximum mandatory sentence for men and women convicted of murder."

The prison officers' lobby and the judges don't want it; nobody who has got to work with it, he said.

Mr Hattersley was speaking on the launching of a new Fabian tract, in which it was urged that the Conservative Party and the Labour Party should each cut over the top 10 year by claiming that it was the party of law and order.

The tract pointed out that between 1974 and 1979 under

Labour, there had been a 4 per cent increase in serious crime reported to the police, while between 1979 and 1982, under the Conservatives, there had been a 10 per cent increase.

Mr Hattersley said that the greater increase in crime under the Conservatives had been caused by economic and social conditions and by the government's policy of introducing tougher policing methods and longer and more unpleasant prison sentences.

He said that it was almost a matter of despair for him to see more and more Conservatives lining up to ask for more of the same policies. "It is my absolute certainty," he said, "that that approach is not going to reduce the crime rate in this country, it is going to make it worse."

He said that he felt particularly strongly that the proposed Police and Criminal Evidence Bill contained provisions for a substantial and dramatic erosion of civil liberties; strengthening police powers without adequate safeguards.

New and Order: Tract of an Issue by David Downes. Fabian Tract 490 (Fabian Society, 11 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BN. £1.50 post free).

Japanese battery plan attacked

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Moves by Japan's biggest automotive battery manufacturers to set up a national sales network in Britain were attacked yesterday by domestic battery producers last night as a direct threat to jobs in an industry which has already suffered severe redundancies.

GS Batteries, Kyoto, is one of the world's largest battery manufacturers, accounting for more than 40 per cent of batteries fitted to Japanese cars.

In a joint statement last night, Lucas and Chloride, the two leading British battery companies, said: "The highly competitive UK market place is already under severe pressure from over one million European imports a year reflecting the general excess of capacity in this product area."

"The arrival of a major Japanese importer must add significantly to the problems faced by the established British manufacturers and can only represent a further threat to the job prospect in this country."

The man who is setting up the Japanese operation in Britain is Mr Michael Orr, the chairman of Colt Cars, a private company which controls the import and sale of Mitsubishi cars. Mr Orr is a controversial figure in the motor trade and recently upset most of his Colt dealers by giving a select few big discounts.

The Japanese batteries are being marketed by Mitsubishi Power, one of Mr Orr's many subsidiary companies.

The sales manager of Mitsubishi Power, Mr John Rose, said last night: "For some time now there has been a need for the proper distribution of Japanese batteries in the UK. At the moment, only a few are being brought in by the people who have Japanese cars here and they cost about three times the going rate. In many cases, European batteries do not meet the motor manufacturers' original specification."

Flotilla in action to save whale

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

A rescue operation was mounted yesterday to save a 60ft whale which was in danger of beaching itself near the Bradwell nuclear power station, Essex. A flotilla, which included a police launch, a coastguard patrol vessel, a fishing trawler and several yachts and dinghies, went out to attempt to turn it out to sea.

The whale was thought to be a Baleen or Whalebone whale, and to weigh about 80 tons.

The coastguard said: "It seems to be having a game with the rescuers. Perhaps it thinks that the rescue boats are other whales."

The whale was joined by two or three smaller whales. They were turned back several times but persisted in slimming towards the shore.

£600 payments for homeless

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

About 500 single homeless people in Glasgow are to receive larger payments of social security arrears than expected. Social security staff are to review 2,000 cases where people living in residential hostels have been underpaid by up to £8.95 a week for more than a year.

Some will be entitled to more than £600 instead of the £330 expected after a meeting yesterday between Strathclyde Regional Council and social security officials.

Glasgow fails to claim £2m

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Glasgow District Council has admitted that it failed to claim £2m in Manpower Services Commission grants over the past six months.

Despite repeated reminders, the council did not file claims for wages and materials for the 1,200 people employed in commission schemes. The oversight, which has cost the city an estimated £70,000 in lost grants, has embarrassed the ruling Labour group which has been campaigning against a government-ordered cut in the city's budget of £5.9m.

'Ripper' brother on theft charge

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Mr Michael Sutcliffe, a brother of the Yorkshire 'Ripper' was arrested when he tried to help the police to find a burglar, a court was told yesterday. Reporting restrictions were lifted as Mr Sutcliffe, of Gilstead, Bingley, West Yorkshire appeared at the town's magistrates' court accused of burglary and theft.

He pleaded to go to Crown Court for trial and the case was adjourned for two weeks. He was given conditional bail.

Fewer drunks

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Cases of drunkenness in England and Wales fell slightly to about 108,000 during 1982, the Home Office disclosed yesterday. The level of findings of guilt or caution was about 1,000 less than in 1981 and 15,000 less than in the peak year of 1980.

Hospital curries

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Asian meals are being served at Sandwell district general hospital. West Midlands in an attempt to stop patients' relatives bringing in curries from a local take-away.

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Sterling
LIFE ASSURANCE

Falklands play angers the Army

By David Hewson

Thames Television faces its second complaint from the Army in two months over its portrayal of British soldiers.

Senior army public relations staff are to press Mr John Stanley, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, to make a formal complaint about the Falklands, *A Game of Soldiers*, which is due to begin transmission on September 28.

The play depicts the dilemma facing a group of Falkland children who find a wounded Argentine soldier during the retaking of the islands last year. During the arguments among the children, one of them says that he has heard that Falkland Islanders have been massacring Argentine conscripts.

Mr Peter Tubern, the play's producer and director, said yesterday that the reference was not meant to be taken literally and was refuted by other characters in the play. The production, which is to appear in three 15-minute parts, was seen by representatives of the Falkland Islands Government in London yesterday who also objected to its content, but Mr Tubern said that he did not intend to make any alterations to the programme.

Two months ago the Army complained about the transmission of a play in the same series which it claimed depicted young soldiers terrorizing civilians in Wales. That complaint was made after the play was transmitted, but in the latest instance, Mr Stanley, who is now in the United States, will be asked to register a protest with the Independent Broadcasting Authority in advance of the showing.

The Army objects to the suggestion of civilian atrocities, which it says are unfounded, something which Thames does not contest.

IRA 'has sought arms from Mafia'

By John Witherow

The Provisional IRA has been approaching the Mafia in the United States for weapons and explosives, according to the head of American customs.

Mr William von Raab, United States commissioner for customs, said during a visit to London yesterday that he had evidence that IRA agents were now moving towards organized crime because it was harder to get weapons from their usual sources, such as gun stores and mailmen.

"It shows they are a little more desperate so we must be making it tougher for them," he said. "It also reveals their character as a criminal organization. Too many people see them as ideological zealots but their criminal ties are stronger than generally accepted."

He explained there was insufficient evidence against Mr Skipp, who had denied the killing.

Mr Skipp, of Hamilton Road, Brentford, west London, still faces charges of wounding, assault, fighting and possessing a flick-knife.

The prosecution alleges Mr Skipp was stabbed to death when he went to help people injured in a fight outside his home in Isleworth, west London.

The second man who has denied murdering Mr Skipp, aged 43, a driver, of Worpole Road, Isleworth, is Thomas Dowling, aged 21.

The case continues today.

Murder charge dropped in 'Good Samaritan' case

By John Witherow

A murder charge against one of two men accused of killing a "good Samaritan" is to be dropped.

After legal submissions at the end of the prosecution case, the Common Sergeant of London, told the Central Criminal Court jury he would direct them to find David Skipp not guilty of murder of Mr Donald Stockwell.

He explained there was insufficient evidence against Mr Skipp, who had denied the killing.

Mr Skipp, of Hamilton Road, Brentford, west London, still faces charges of wounding, assault, fighting and possessing a flick-knife.

The prosecution alleges Mr Skipp was stabbed to death when he went to help people injured in a fight outside his home in Isleworth, west London.

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Mixed chess fortunes for Israelis

By John Witherow

After much lively play in round two of the Benedictine International Chess tournament in Manchester there were some surprising results.

Although last year's prizewinner, the American master, Kudrin, won by a massive kingside attack, Chris H. Fennell vs Henry G. Lane, Fennell vs Ravi Kumar, and Lane vs Ravi Kumar, were all draws.

Mr Skipp, of Hamilton Road, Brentford, west London, still faces charges of wounding, assault, fighting and possessing a flick-knife.

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The case continues today.

Children 'used' in drug trade at Stonehenge

By John Witherow

A dossier about children peddling drugs, open witchcraft and general squall at this year's druidic and pop music festival at Stonehenge has been passed to the Bishop of Salisbury by three young Christian evangelists.

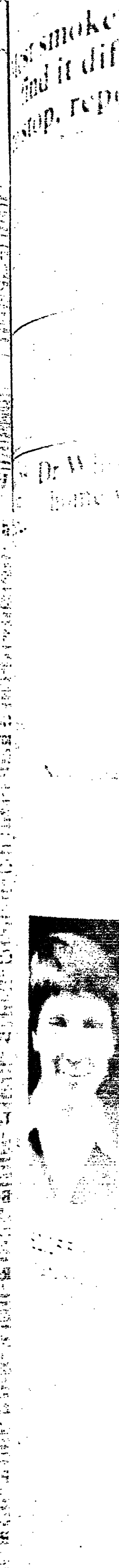
Christopher Watts and Ian Lockhart, of Salisbury, and Geoffrey Skeats, of Durrington, Wiltshire, spent fourteen days living in a tent in the 30,000-sq-ft festival community.

Armed with Christian pamphlets and books and with the support of the diocese, they wandered around the camp talking to people, secretly carrying a tape recorder and camera.

In a report, they say they saw seven-year-olds openly shouting out the price of drugs, children in a filthy state and people collapsed on the ground because of drug abuse.

They also found that Stonehenge was overflowing with "spiritual" activities, everything but Christ was present, Mr Watts said.

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Most smokers do not find it difficult to stop, report says

By John Withrow

Smokers trying to give up the habit should be encouraged by a report published yesterday which says that more than half of smokers do not find it difficult to stop. Only 6 per cent felt ill-tempered or put weight as a result and fewer than 10 per cent wanted to start again.

The report, issued by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, discloses that smokers are a bundle of contradictions. Nearly three quarters of the 2,700 smokers questioned admitted that smoking cost more than it was worth, but said they would continue to buy tobacco even if the price rose.

Seventy per cent had tried to give up in the past 10 years and 30 per cent smoked without enjoying it. A quarter of smokers supported a ban on smoking in public places and the majority favoured a ban on advertising. The government's spending to encourage people to stop.

Most smokers were aware that the habit could contribute to coughs or lung cancer (although 5 per cent claimed to be immune to the endless gloomy medical reports), but remained convinced that they would escape ill-effects because they did not smoke enough.

At the same time, most believed that smoking would bear some responsibility if they were to contract bronchitis, heart disease or lung cancer.

Among those smokers, a substantial minority wanted a ban on cigarette advertisements. They also in favour of allowing people to smoke where they liked in public. But by questioning both smokers and 1,700 non-smokers, the researchers found there was wide support for bans in many, if not all public places.

MAIN REASON FOR TRYING TO GIVEUP

| Reason | Failures | | Successes | |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 1st period | 2nd period | 1st period | 2nd period |
| To save money | 36 | 29 | 51 | 5 |
| Feeling unwell at times | 20 | 23 | 21 | 10 |
| Afraid of future illness | 26 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Presenting a health hazard | 2 | 19 | 26 | 8 |
| Just wanted to | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| To please someone else | 7 | 7 | 11 | 2 |
| Some other reason | 6 | 7 | 11 | 2 |

Woman, 69 jailed on drug charge

A grey-haired, bespectacled woman aged 69 was jailed for four years yesterday for her part in a £1m drug-smuggling ring.

Mrs Margaret Redding of no fixed address, was jailed after Judge Wick QC was told at Maidstone Crown Court that she had acted as a courier, bringing in dozens of cases packed with cannabis.

Gearbox blamed for derailment

The first derailment involving a British rail high-speed train was caused by a gearbox oversteering, a Ministry of Transport inquiry report said yesterday.

Children hurt

Fourteen children and a teacher from a primary school in Bladon, Oxfordshire, were hurt yesterday when a coach on which they were travelling was involved in a head-on collision with a lorry in the village. Six of the passengers were slightly injured.

Crash toll rises

The death toll in the crash involving a coach and two cars near Littlewood in the Highlands on Monday rose to six yesterday with the death of Mrs Margaret Wilson, aged 86, from Glasgow, a passenger in one of the cars.

Victim named

A youth who fell 60ft to his death down a disused mine shaft at Neuthead, near Alston, Cumbria, was identified yesterday as David Colin Brooks, age 17, from Millingsworth near Newcastle upon Tyne.

Toy snake ban

Toy snakes imported from Taiwan, which may contain water which is contaminated with sewage, were banned from sale in Britain yesterday. A child was reported to have contracted dysentery after handling one.

Best bitter

Bridge bitter, brewed by the Horton Bridge Brewery at Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, which has a workforce of five, has been awarded the title of Britain's best bitter by Camara, the real ale campaigners.

Rail death

Mr George Oliver, aged 45, of Sunnybank, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, died yesterday after being struck by a train on the Retford to Sheffield line. He had been searching for his lost dog.

No to legal aid

Mrs Pauline Neal, aged 29, who staged a five-week sit-in at Crawley Hospital, West Sussex, has been refused legal aid to challenge the borough council's refusal to rehause her family.

£1,000 robbery

A man wearing sailing clothes held up the Portman Building Society in Dorchester, Dorset, yesterday, and escaped into a crowded street with £1,000. He was believed to have a pistol.

Playhouse sold

Edinburgh District Council yesterday agreed to sell its biggest theatre, the 2,700-seat Playhouse, to Mr Norman Springfield, a businessman.

Rat hazard

Health inspectors in Ipswich yesterday ordered their cameras in the civic centre to be closed as a hazard after a rat was found.

Dr Who heads BBC home video drive

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Dr Who, Reginald Perrin and the Two Ronnies are among the characters who will launch the BBC into the home video market in the wake of a 18-month agreement between the corporation and unions representing actors, writers, and musicians.

The new titles are - The Best of the Two Ronnies, Butterflies, The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin and Dr Who (Revenge of the Cyberman).

New chart for videos

A tamper-proof sales chart for the video industry has been launched by Gallup in association with the magazine Video Week.

It will run on the same lines as a computerized music chart introduced at the beginning of the year for Music Week, the music trade publication. It will provide an accurate record of the numbers of rentals and sales of video cassettes, a £100m business last year.

Fortune awaits miser's relative

By Richard Evans

A miserly widow worth a small fortune has died, without leaving a will.

The £380,000 left by Mrs Phyllis Elizabeth Grey who was found dead at her neglected three-bedroomed home in the Devon village of Brixham earlier this year, will go to the Chancellor of the Exchequer unless a relative is found within the next month.

Most of the money is in stocks and shares, accumulated by her naval husband, who was related to the family of the former premier Sir Anthony Eden, and who died in 1976.

School meals service goes private

By Barbara Day

The first privatized school meals service in Britain started operating this week in the London Borough of Merton and it has proved popular with the children.

A typical class of 26 children aged eight at Hatfield Primary School in Morden, south-west London, had chicken and mushroom à la king with Patna rice and peas followed by strawberry surprise, and then voted 10 out of 10 for the new service.

The meals cost 57p each and the menu will include specialties such as quiche lorraine, ravioli, steak and kidney pie, pasta bolognese and

Solidarity ousted by songbirds

From Tim Jones Cardiff

The names of Nelson Mandela, Steve Biko, Lech Walesa and other political and revolutionary leaders will not be immortalized on a sedate private housing estate after a decision yesterday by Cardiff City Council to allow streets to be named after songbirds.

Doctor's bequests

Dr John Bodkin Adams, the Eastbourne doctor cleared of murdering a wealthy woman patient 26 years ago, has left bequests to 20 women in his £402,970 net will.

Prince faces tough training on Lynx

Prince Andrew will have to work hard when he starts an advanced training course on Lynx helicopters, the man who will be his commanding officer said yesterday.

Lieutenant-Commander Tom Bailey, commanding officer of 702 Naval Air Squadron which the Prince joins at Portland, Dorset, on September 19, said: "He will find it difficult. We do not spoonfeed these boys. We require them to take a responsible attitude to their training."

The Lynx, which costs £2m, was smaller and more powerful and has been described as the E-type of helicopters.

British firm develops new heart attack treatment

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

A new treatment for strokes and heart attacks - the West's main killer diseases - and a drug to strengthen weak bones in the elderly are to be developed by Celltech, Britain's state-backed biotechnology company, for a large Japanese pharmaceutical manufacturer.

Both products are natural proteins which Celltech will produce with genetically engineered bacteria for Sankey, Japan's second largest drug company.

One is an enzyme called t-PA (tissue plasminogen activator) which helps to dissolve blood clots, the cause of heart attacks

Shoppers face dearer egg prices

Eggs are expected to be more expensive in the shops this autumn as, after 18 months of oversupply and depressed prices, production more closely matches demand.

Yesterday Britain's largest egg farming cooperative, Goldenlay, announced an increase of up to 4p a dozen from next week. Present retail prices are 60p to 94p a dozen, depending on size, with an average of 78p a dozen for standard, size 3, eggs.

Judge troubled by case of schoolboy killer

A judge expressed his displeasure yesterday at not being able to sentence a schoolboy who has admitted the manslaughter of a classmate. Patrick McIlwain, aged 16, of Coventry, admitted the manslaughter of Carl Ridley, aged 15, whose body was found with 26 stab wounds.

Mr Justice Bush adjourned the case at the Crown Court in Birmingham until October 4 and directed that three psychiatrists, including the medical director of Broadmoor, should be present.

He said he was "most perturbed" at the way the case had developed, particularly because none of the medical witnesses was present to give evidence.

Private schools 'bad for Britain'

From Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent, Cambridge

Independent schools are a cause of the British Malaise, Mr Brian Tyler, the headmaster of Kingswood Comprehensive School in Corby, said yesterday.

Speaking at the annual conference of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, in Cambridge, Mr Tyler said that the most damage was done by keeping alive the notion of a hierarchy of schools. "It helps, in fact, to preserve and cement the class system - perhaps more than anything else."

"I believe this is a bad thing, a bad thing for the education of all our children, and a bad thing for the country". Research showed that Britain's poor industrial performance was attributable to divisions and lack of communication between management and labour when compared with West Germany and Japan, Mr Tyler said.

Mr Tyler, whose school was the subject of a BBC television series last year, emphasized that he was not in favour of abolishing independent schools for libertarian reasons. Liberty was more important than equality, he said. "Nevertheless I think it would be better for everyone if they did not exist."

Mr Tyler said that if the rich and powerful sent their children to schools which were under-sourced or did not have very good staff, the political will would be found suddenly to put things right and fund the system properly.

The view had always been held implicitly that state education was not as good as private education. State schools had aped private schools, while the school one attended was a badge of one's social class.

"What some people want in a school is not education but the entrée into privilege".

'Naive' spending

The new political adviser to Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, says that state schools are inadequately managed and should probably receive less government finance (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

Mr Rodney Lord, writing in the latest edition of the journal Public Money says that too often more spending on schools is equated with "more education". That, he says is naive.

Mr Lord is particularly critical of the amount spent by some local authorities on building maintenance, cleaners and other support staff.

Two hundred teaching jobs are to be cut by Staffordshire County Council next year as part of a £6m economy package. The staff cuts will save £1,225,000. Forty-eight primary and secondary school teaching posts are to be lost in Suffolk. The Conservative-controlled council announced yesterday that it was also to reduce spending on books and equipment by £80,000.

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Rockets fired at Nicaragua Air Force base

Rebel attack closes Managua airport

Managua (AP, Reuters) - Two light aircraft piloted by rebel forces, bombed the city of Managua and its airport yesterday, causing heavy damage but apparently no casualties, an army spokesman said.

Commander Roberto Sanchez said that anti-aircraft guns at the airport shot down one of the aircraft, a propeller-driven Cessna 402, which crashed at the base of the control tower, killing the pilot and co-pilot.

He identified the pilots as Agustin Roman, a Nicaraguan who once worked for the national airline Aeronica, and Sebastian Miller, an air force deserter. Other sources, who did not name the pilots, claimed the aircraft came from bases in neighbouring Costa Rica.

One aircraft dropped two bombs near the house of the Foreign Minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto, in the south-west section of Managua, shortly before dawn. Father D'Escoto, was away at the time, in Panama City attending a conference of Latin American foreign ministers.

Witnesses in the area said the bombs caused some damage, but the extent was not immediately known. There were also no reports of casualties.

About 15 minutes after the bombing near Father D'Escoto's house, at around 5:30 am (11:30 GMT), the second aircraft buzzed low over the airport, dropping two bombs. Commander Sanchez said he saw one fall into an Aeronica biplane. Almost immediately, soldiers manning anti-aircraft guns lining the runways opened up on the aircraft.

Another report said the rebels

launched a rocket attack on Air Force installations.

The Deputy Minister of the Interior, Sergio Luis Carrion, said a Cessna propeller-driven aircraft coming from Costa Rica had fired two rockets at the airport, damaging buildings and supplies of aircraft.

After four blasts struck the air base, police and security forces cordoned off the airport, on the fringe of Managua, and prevented access to journalists and other civilians.

At the time of the explosion, scores of protesters were checking in for the first flight of the day, but the airport's main passenger structure could not be accessed.

Salon Edgar Chaves, a leader of a main rebel group, the Nicaraguan Democratic Front, said last month that his group had obtained several aircraft which had been scattered in the San Juan area over the past few days. They said they were planning to use them to attack the US Embassy in Managua.

The explosion came at a time when Mr. Carrion was in the US Defence Secretary's visit to Nicaragua. Carrion was in the capital on a visit at least partly aimed at keeping up US pressure on the Sandinistas.

Washington blames them for the killing of Archbishop Oscar Romero, a leader of the Catholic Church, who has increased his criticism of the leadership since including large-scale joint demonstrations in Honduras.

The explosion also coincided with a fresh attempt by the Latin American Central American tour, which General Alvarez, who had a news conference last month that he wanted \$300m (£200m) in



Gunning for rebels: Mr Weinberger inspecting USS New Jersey off El Salvador

TEGUIGALPA: Mr Weinberger arrived on Wednesday night and was due to meet the

additional military aid. (Reuter reports)

delegated efforts by Nicaragua to destabilize Central America.

Washington's emphasis on strengthening its allies against

the Defence Secretary's visit, part of a three-nation Central American tour, spotlighting

Washington's emphasis on strengthening its allies against

Seven more die as Zia begins Sind tour

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

Seven people were killed and three others critically wounded in an election clash in Baluchistan, north of the troubled province of Sind yesterday. Supporters of a candidate in the Kot Mengal union council elections fired on a rival vehicle outside a polling station.

Meanwhile, General Zia-Ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, arrived yesterday on his first visit to some of the towns of Sind since the violent anti-government campaign began on August 14. He landed at Jacobabad, a fairly quiet town close to the Karachi district.

General Zia has accused the late Mr Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party of leading agitation against him in Sind, but claimed that it has been confined to particular areas. He repeated his charge that anti-government elements backed by foreign money and assistance were responsible for such lawless activities. He said that calm and tranquillity were pre-requisites for his programme to transfer power to a civil government by March, 1985.

However, Dr Asrar Ahmad, a controversial right-wing Islamic scholar and preacher who angered Pakistani feminists by his campaign for purdah (veil and chador), described the Sind situation as endangering the very existence of Pakistan. He attacked the regime for treating the Sind problem as one of law and order, and said that not even the most patriotic Islam-loving person would be able to control Sind if its political rights continued to be denied.

Ottawa may cut funding Fees row threatens health service

From John Best, Ottawa

A three-way dispute involving Federal and provincial governments and the medical profession is threatening the foundations of Canada's highly developed and popular public health insurance programme.

The quarrel concerns two simple but emotionally charged expressions, "user fees" and "extra-billing."

The first refers to the deterrent charges which an increasing number of provinces are putting on the use of hospital beds; the second to charges which doctors impose on patients beyond what the insurance plan pays for medical services.

The Federal Government is threatening to cut health care funding to provinces which permit such levies, contending that they endanger the universality of hospital and medical insurance schemes introduced in the 1960s.

Half the cost of these programmes - C\$9,300 m (almost £5,000 m) last year alone - is paid by Ottawa, even though they are administered provincially.

The Federal Health Minister, Mrs Monique Bégin, has warned doctors that if extra charges are not stopped, "sooner or later we will be back to pre-Medicare days, with private insurance for those who can afford it."

Medicare in this country refers to the entire state hospital-medical care package. A meeting between Mrs Bégin and provincial health ministers in Halifax this week produced no solution, though she said later

that she was willing to consider provincial proposals on how to do away with extra charges.

Of the 10 provinces, French-speaking Quebec is the only one where neither user fees nor extra-billing is allowed.

Health care is primarily a provincial responsibility in Canada, but the federal Government can influence its content by setting standards which the provinces have to observe to qualify for Federal financial help.

The difference between what the doctor charges and what the provincial fee schedule allows may be considerable, frequently amounting to around 30 per cent, and the patient has to pay it.

Usually, doctors who extra-bill have opted out of the health insurance plan. Instead of sending their bills to the insurance office these doctors bill the patient directly. The patient pays and then collects from the insurance plan whatever portion the plan covers.

A few of the provinces help pay for Medicare by charging premiums - \$680 (£360) a year per family in Ontario, for instance - but most finance it from general revenues, augmented in some cases by special sales taxes.

Four provinces have also adopted user fees for hospital facilities, which are intended to discourage non-essential demand on beds as much as to raise revenue.

Doctors who bill through the system and accept the going fee schedule, are inclined to look on extra-billing and direct-billing as important symbols

Soviet envoy's visit upgraded by China

Peking (Reuters) - Mr Mikhail Kapitsa, a Soviet Foreign Minister's aide, arrived in Peking yesterday for talks expected to cover Soviet relations which have shown signs of improvement in the last year.

At Peking airport, Mr Kapitsa said he would discuss international issues, but gave no details. He was welcomed by his host, Mr Qian Qichen, Deputy Foreign Minister, with whom he is scheduled to hold two rounds of talks. A Chinese spokesman said Mr Kapitsa would also meet Mr Wu Xueqian, Foreign Minister, during his visit, which is expected to last about 10 days.

Mr Kapitsa, the Kremlin's leading China expert, has visited

several times in the last few years, but this is the first time he has come to the attention of the Chinese Government.

He has previously been in Peking as the guest of the Soviet ambassador, and his present working visit represents a significant upgrading. It is believed that the visit will be a prelude to a month-long Sino-Soviet talks, expected to resume in Peking, the third round since last October.

The Soviet side in next month's talks, at the invitation of the Chinese Government, will be headed by Mr Leonid Bychok, another Deputy Foreign Minister, while Mr Qian Qichen will continue to lead the Chinese team.

Diplomats regard Mr Kapitsa's mission as a counter balance to a visit to Peking later this month by Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, which is seen as evidence of China's increasing even-handed policy towards the two superpowers.

A rift has taken place between Peking and Moscow since a call for better relations by Mr Brezhnev in March 1982, after more than 20 years of hostility.

The change in Sino-Soviet relations is seen as a result of Washington's over-subsidy to Taiwan, as well as realization that a prolonged cold war with the Soviet Union is not in China's best interests.

Freed prisoner made mayor of tremor town

From John Earle, Rome

A week after leaving prison, Signor Maria La Rana, aged 45, a civil engineer, was in office yesterday as Mayor of Pozzuoli, the town east of Naples where 15,000 of the 70,000 population are reported to have fled for fear that persisting earth tremors herald a volcanic eruption.

Signor La Rana, from Senator Giovanni Spadolini's Republican Party, used to be deputy mayor in a Christian Democrat-headed civic administration which recently resigned. He was arrested on charges relating to the issue of building permits and released from prison this week on parole, though the charges against him remain. He heads an administration from which the Christian Democrats have been ejected.

Three-step plan for transfer of Hongkong

Hongkong (AP)

The Hongkong Prospects Institute, a "think tank" on Hongkong's future, has proposed a three-step plan for the transfer of the territory to China in three stages.

The idea was immediately attacked by the local pro-Peking daily *Tu King Pao*, which said the proposal "embodied the wishes of the five million people of Hongkong and the one billion people of China."

The Institute suggested that in the first stage of the transition - from now until 1997 - the Chinese and British Governments should organize jointly a public opinion survey, the results of which should serve as the basis for their decision on the future status of Hongkong.

Polish prosecutor gives student death details

Warsaw (Reuters) - Charges against six people, including two policemen, in connection with the death of a Warsaw student after he was detained by the police, have followed four months of intensive inquiries.

It is extremely rare in Poland and other Eastern-block countries for policemen to be publicly charged in such cases, and the Warsaw public prosecutor's announcement on Wednesday contained a detailed account of the circumstances.

It also accused "anti-socialist centres" in Poland and abroad of mounting a "slandorous and deceitful campaign" intended to portray the death as "an act of revenge for the student's mother's political activities."

Two policemen, two ambulance staff and two doctors are being charged in connection with the death of Grzegorz Przemnyk, aged 17, who died of intensive internal injuries after being picked up in the centre of the capital on May 7 in fluster police action to break up crowds gathered under the banner of the banned Solidarity trade union.

Tens of thousands of mourners turned out for his funeral which became a massive demonstration of support for Solidarity.

Przemnyk became a martyr in the eyes of Solidarity supporters, who say more than 30 people died during the funeral by period. Official figures say less than 20 died. Przemnyk's mother, Mrs Barbara Szostek, worked with a church committee helping political detainees whose headquarters were broken up by police a few days earlier.

The prosecutor's announcement said Przemnyk had been drinking, was wearing his shoes and was being carried on a friend's back when police stopped him in Castle Square in Warsaw.

He refused to hand over his identity card or say who was with him when he was taken to a police station. He was aggressive and tried to run away, a policeman said. Przemnyk, which caused a scandal, it said, which caused a scandal, it said.

Witnesses of the unusual behaviour - a so-called "subversion attempt" - was called and Przemnyk was taken to an emergency medical station.

Ambulance crew members had told investigators he had to be restrained when he grabbed at their hair and faces. He was superficially examined by a psychiatrist who recommended he be taken to a psychiatric hospital. Przemnyk's mother believed and was allowed to take him to hospital for an emergency operation. He died shortly afterwards.

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The Korean jet disaster

Senior Kremlin officials to face questions from Western press

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Senior military and political officials are to give a press conference in Moscow today to react to the world outcry over the jumbo jet tragedy and give further details of the Soviet version.

It is believed to be the first time that Marshal Ograrkov has publicly by senior figures are in any case unusual in Russia.

Observers expect Marshal Ograrkov to be pressed to confirm that Soviet fighters shot down the Korean plane, and to reveal at what level the decision was taken.

Questions at Soviet press conferences are normally submitted in writing and channelled through a chairman.

Marshall Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister, yesterday arrived at Sebastopol in the Crimea to attend a ceremony, a move apparently intended to underline the Kremlin's view that its version of events is widely known and the immediate crisis has passed.

The Kremlin has taken comfort from the fact that neither the Western stand at Madrid over the jumbo crisis nor the airline pilots' boycott has been unanimous.

Diplomats said Soviet officials had studied the lessons of

previous Western responses to Soviet outrages and had calculated that trade sanctions were discredited and poorly-coordinated when applied.

There has been no official comment so far on the retaliatory measures outlined by President Reagan, or to the 60-day boycott of Moscow flights by British, French, Scandinavian and other pilots.

The last British Airways flight to London from Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport was seen off yesterday evening by well-wishers from the increasingly stranded foreign community, and left a trail of controversy in its wake.

Banning Moscow flights will only damage the airlines themselves and benefit Aeroflot, one European airline official said.

Others said a ban on landing and refuelling rights for Aeroflot at major Western airports would be more effective, but would involve abrogation of the international air services agreement.

The pilots' boycott will make no impact on ordinary Russians, very few of whom are allowed to travel abroad.

Tass yesterday reported Sir Geoffrey Howe's meeting with Mr Andrei Gromyko in Madrid, but did not report Sir Geoffrey's description of Soviet action as "incredible and appalling".

The press carried a stream of excerpts from foreign papers supporting the Soviet case, although nearly all the papers cited were Communist Party Organs.



War games: A US Marines mortar crew in Beirut taking a break after coming under shellfire.

Marines will stay put in Beirut

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration has made clear that it does not intend to change either the size or the status of the American component of the multinational peace-keeping force in Beirut, despite continued attacks by Muslim militiamen.

A State Department official, speaking shortly after a US naval vessel had fired a salvo at Druze positions in response to a shelling against Beirut airport, also told The Times that the US would not accede to demands being made by some Congressmen that the Marines should be withdrawn.

"To do so would be to abandon Lebanon to chaos and civil war", the official said. He expressed the belief that the US-equipped and trained Lebanese Army appeared to be slowly bringing the situation under control and had recently taken over some strategically-important points in the foothills of the Chouf.

The Army is doing pretty well against formidable odds. The main thing is that the force is holding together better than expected and has not split along political or religious lines.

The official was speaking as an American amphibious force with 2,000 additional Marines on board was approaching the eastern Mediterranean.

Although the US has said the Marines will not be sent ashore, their presence is intended to show the Druze and their Syrian backers that the US will not be intimidated into leaving Beirut.

The official said the British, French and Italian components of the 5,400-man peace force were equally determined to continue with their mission.

The French contingent suffered three more deaths this week, bringing to 16 the number of French servicemen killed since they were dispatched to Beirut almost a year ago.

Although President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon has publicly called for the expansion of the multi-national force, no formal requests have been received by any of the four nations' capitals to raise the size of their contingents.

Britain switches envoy's posting

Mr Nicholas Barrington, recently head of the British interests section in Teheran, will not be moving to Beirut as ambassador, as announced last May, the Foreign Office confirmed last night.

Mr Barrington's reasons were "operational" and that another appointment to the Lebanon post would be made in due course.

However, a high-level inter-departmental committee has been meeting in Washington to consider US options if the Lebanese Army fails to bring the situation under control and the Marines continue to pull out and let the Lebanese resolve their internal feuds by themselves, has been ruled out.

Similarly, a decision to beef up the US force in Beirut also seems a non-starter at present, because it would meet strong opposition in Congress, which is wary of the US being sucked into a Vietnam-type situation in the Middle East.

Representative Clarence Long, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee on foreign operations, announced that he intended to seek to withhold funds for US forces in Lebanon until and unless President Reagan invokes the War Powers Act.

For the moment it seems likely that US ground and sea forces will respond more vigorously if the

Marines come under deliberate attack.

PARIS: Concern increased in France yesterday about the safety of the peace-keeping force after the latest deaths (Reuter reports). Sources said M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, hurried out of a Cabinet meeting to telephone his Syrian counterpart in Damascus when news of the deaths arrived in Paris.

BAHRAIN: A senior Saudi Arabian envoy flew to Damascus yesterday for talks with Syrian leaders to pave the way for a resumption of Saudi efforts to mediate in the Lebanese crisis (Reuters reports).

It quoted an official source in the Information Ministry as saying Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the new ambassador to the United States, made the trip after a telephone call from Damascus.

WHO'S WHO IN THE LEBANON FIGHTING

The following are the main forces involved in the present fighting in Lebanon:

THE DRUZE, fighting as the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP). Comprising an estimated 10 per cent of Lebanon's population, the Druze describe themselves as Muslim but are regarded by most other Muslims as heretics. The PSP was founded by Kamal Jumblatt, who led the left-wing side in Lebanon's civil war of 1975-76, and is now led mainly from Damascus by his son Walid.

THE PHALANGE or Kataib: a Lebanese nationalist party founded by the father of the present President in 1936. Mainly Maronite but including some Orthodox Christians. The Maronites have been the dominant community in Lebanon since independence, providing both President and army commander. They traditionally look to the West for protection against the surrounding Muslim Arabs.

THE LEBANESE ARMY. Hitherto an ineffective force but, lately retrained by the Americans, it performed well in street fighting in Beirut last week. Officially neutral, the Army has been increasingly drawn into the fighting on the Phalangist side. It is regarded by many Druze and Muslims as an instrument of Maronite

domination. Christians form a majority in the officer corps.

The Shia militia AMAL (meaning "hope"), was formed by the late Imam Musa Sadr, an Iranian and friend of Ayatollah Khomeini. Sadr disappeared mysteriously in Libya in 1978, and Amal is now led by Mr Nabih Berri. The Shia are the underdog community in Lebanon but believed now to be the largest single group. At present allied with the Druze.

THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE, composed of Americans, French, Italians and British, was sent in a year ago to protect civilians and help Lebanon recover its national sovereignty. Has been shelled by the Druze but would prefer not to take sides in a Lebanese civil war.

THE ISRAELIS, whose withdrawal from the Chouf precipitated the present round of fighting, were formerly allied to the Phalangists but are now apparently neutral between them and the Druze, so long as Syria does not move in its own forces on the Druze side.

SYRIA, still occupying northern and eastern Lebanon, has condemned President Gemayel's government for signing an agreement with Israel, and is supplying weapons and other equipment to the Druze.

\$500m arms credit helps Greece sign bases pact

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The United States and Greece yesterday signed an agreement allowing the Americans to operate their military bases in this country at least until the end of the decade in exchange for security safeguards to Greece in the form of credits, military hardware and a promise to preserve the military balance in the Aegean.

For the Socialist Government of Greece, which came to power two years ago on a qualified commitment to dismantle foreign bases, it was a bold and binding option.

To minimize the political cost the move was sandwiched between two pro-Soviet initiatives by Athens this week: the blocking of a European Community condemnation of the Soviet Union for the destruction of the South Korean airliner, and the plan to press for a six-month delay in the deployment of British 2 and cruise missiles in Europe, at Monday's EEC foreign ministers' meeting in Athens.

The bases agreement, concluded after negotiations lasting eight

months, was signed at the Foreign Ministry last night between Mr Yiannis Kapsis, the Greek Under-Secretary, and Mr Alan Berlin, the American Charge d'Affaires. They also signed an exchange of letters reaffirming President Reagan's pledge of \$500m in military credits to Greece this year, as well as an undertaking to respect the balance of forces between Greece and Turkey.

There was a delay of seven weeks between the initialling of the negotiated English text and the signing of the English and Greek texts, which the Greek side insists are of equal authenticity and validity, because of differences over the translation of key words.

One of those words was "terminable", in relation to the ending of the agreement after five years, after a written denunciation delivered five months earlier. The other was the term "equivalence" with reference to the granting of military assistance to Greece and Turkey to preserve the military equilibrium.

Lawyers walk out of Aquino inquiry

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A walk-out by human rights lawyers and supporters yesterday interrupted the second day of hearings by a presidential commission investigating the assassination of Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader.

At the same time, the Supreme Court asked the members of the controversial commission, which consists of the Supreme Court Chief Justice and four former justices, to explain within 10 days why they should not be disqualified from inquiring into Aquino's death.

The two moves sprung from widespread doubts in Philippine legal circles about the legality of the commission and the likelihood of a fair hearing into the circumstances of the August 21

killing of Aquino, minutes after he returned home from three years' exile in the US. The commission is being boycotted by the Aquino family, and the opposition because, they claim, the commission members lack impartiality and are "obedient to President Marcos". Three petitions were filed early this week with the Supreme Court questioning the impartiality and constitutionality of the commission.

One, filed by Aquino's People's Power Party, sought an order restraining the Chief Justice, Mr Enrique Fernando, from continuing as chairman of the commission on the grounds, among others, that he was too closely linked to the Marcos government

Family flies to freedom in balloon of old macs

Vienna (Reuter) A Czechoslovak family, who made a spectacular escape across the Austrian border on Wednesday night in a home-made hot air balloon, will be allowed to join relatives in Austria. Interior Ministry sources said.

Police said Mr Robert Hutvay, aged 38, an engineer and amateur racing cyclist, flew his wife and two children over the border into Lower Austria in a balloon strung together from old raincoats and propelled by domestic propane gas.

Czechoslovak border guards spotted the balloon and fired Bazooka rockets to light up the sky but they were unable to halt its 50-minute flight. Mr Hutvay said he had planned his escape to the last detail two years ago. The winds were favourable on Wednesday.

Wall guards defect to pub

Berlin (AFP) - Two East German soldiers, on duty with the border patrol, crossed over in full uniform, carrying their weapons. Dishevelled after scaling the Wall, they shocked the patrons of the Little Waitflower Inn when they walked in.

When they announced they had defected the innkeeper and customers applauded and offered them beer and cigarettes.

Punjab clash injures 63

Delhi (Reuter) - At least 63 people, some of them police, were injured in an anti-Government demonstration by Communist supporters in the northern state of Punjab, the Press Trust of India reported.

Police in the state capital of Chandigarh used batons and tear gas to disperse the demonstrators, who threw bricks and stones. The anti-farmer, anti-worker and anti-youth policies of the Punjab Government were the target of the protest.

Paid to leave

The Hague (AFP) - Travel expenses and establishment costs will be paid to foreigners who take up a government compensation scheme and go home. It will be put to Parliament next week and will be available to all 543,000 foreigners except citizens of the EEC and Dutch West Indies.

Borneo beaten

Hongkong (AFP) - A US team sponsored by a tobacco company has completed a 43-day, 4,500-mile crossing of Borneo in the East. They trekked through primitive jungle and descended several rivers never seen by Westerners before.

Georgian shot

Moscow (Reuter) - A factory boss in Soviet Georgia, Gorgy Saakadze, has been executed by firing squad for embezzlement and taking bribes. Pipe lagging he supplied for Tiblisi's water mains was cheap glass-fibre instead of the high-quality wool felt paid for.

Typhoon alert

Hongkong (Reuter) - Residents left work and hurried home for shelter as Typhoon Ellen approached across the South China Sea. All schools were closed, ferry companies suspended service and the city battened down in readiness.

Racial secret

Johannesburg (AFP) - An abandoned two-month-old baby which South African authorities were unable to classify racially has been adopted by a Pretoria family whose own racial origins have been kept secret.

French solution

Paris - A majority of French people (51 per cent) think that the best way to fight unemployment would be to send the immigrant workers back home, according to a Sofres poll.

Swiss rolling

Berne (AP) - There are 40,000 millionaires or multi-millionaires among the 3.2 million taxpayers in Switzerland, according to official statistics on private wealth in 1981.

Correction

In Western Europe, the country with most resident foreigners is Luxembourg, with 26 per cent, not France, as stated in a report from Paris on September 1.

Washington gathers UN support

From Zoriana Pysarski, New York

The United States and 25 other nations are drafting a resolution in the Security Council, that will risk a Soviet veto, as a symbolic gesture of outrage over the destruction of the South Korean airliner.

Diplomats here cannot recall any occasion where an American initiative gained so many associate architects. Countries from the Third World usually find it embarrassing to support specific US campaigns, and even Europeans find such arrangements difficult and prefer to be bridge-builders.

In the debate on Wednesday, Japan attempted to counter Soviet claims that it had intentionally failed to warn the Korean airliner that it had strayed into Soviet airspace because it was on an intelligence mission.

Mr Mizuo Kuroda, the Japanese representative, said the aircraft had gone beyond Japanese civil surveillance visibility. Mr Kuroda said that control did not exempt anything unless it began receiving an unintelligible transmission at 03:27 Japanese standard time, one minute after the aircraft had been fired on.

Only after the analysis of radar and communication records was it revealed that the jet might have strayed, and at that point it was too late to inform air defence forces.

SEVEN DAYS' FURORE

Table with 2 columns: United States, Soviet Union. It lists events from Thursday, Sept 1 to Wednesday, Sept 7, detailing diplomatic moves, press conferences, and military actions related to the Korean airliner disaster.

Victim's son attacks 'evil empire'

From Myshin Ali, Washington

Mr Trygvi McDonald, son of the right-wing congressman killed in the South Korean airliner, has called on President Reagan to "break off all economic and diplomatic relations with the evil empire - the Soviet Union".

Mr McDonald, aged 22, met Mr William Clark, the president's National Security Adviser, at the White House on Wednesday and gave him a petition urging much tougher sanctions against the Soviet Union.

Before delivering his petition to Mr Clark, McDonald told a rally in Lafayette Park, facing the White House: "My father is gone and nothing can bring him back. If by dying he has ended Western appeasement of the Soviet Union, then he did not die in vain."

When he tried to deliver a protest letter to the Soviet Embassy on Wednesday, an unidentified embassy employee refused to accept it and tossed it back through the embassy fence.

Mrs Kathryn McDonald, widow of Larry McDonald, who was leader of the John Birch Society, has indicated that she may run for her late husband's House of Representatives seat.

After the meeting with Mr Clark, Mr McDonald seemed less

angry and said that the president should not overreact.

He told reporters later: "We must be sure the world wakes up and recognizes the communist threat", but he added that he did not expect anything unless negotiations, or cancelling the Geneva arms control talks with the Soviet Union.

Administration officials said yesterday that President Reagan was considering further steps against the Soviet Union. "I think you're going to see the screw continue to turn", a White House official said.

He added that the degree to which the Administration stepped up pressure on Moscow would depend on Soviet responses to US demands for an apology, restitution for the victims' families and assurances that such an attack would not occur again.

A spokesman for the National Security Council said the focus for the President now was to "seek an allied consensus, rather than frighten people by getting too far out in front".

President Reagan was yesterday meeting Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, US representative at the United Nations, to consider what further action could be taken; and

he also consulted Vice President George Bush.

Mr Bush will also be able to condemn the Soviet action during his 10-day North African and East European tour beginning on Sunday. He is visiting Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary and Austria.

Meanwhile, public anger continues to mount. US publishers have announced a boycott of the Moscow Book Fair, and three video games at the University arcade in Austin, Texas, have been reprogrammed with anti-Soviet messages.

American are boycotting Russian vodka as a way of expressing their anger (Trevor Fishlock writes). Nine states have told their liquor control boards to stop buying vodka and owners of bars and drink shops are refusing to sell it.

A bar-owner in Maine and another in Detroit made it public by pouring bottles of vodka down the drain.

In Los Angeles, stevedores are refusing to unload a Russian freighter with a cargo of vodka and paper goods. The leading importer of Russian vodka is not joining the boycott. "It won't bring anybody back to life", a spokesman said.

There were signs of official apprehension about the possible outcome of yesterday's events. Schools and colleges were closed until Monday morning.

But the Chilean Government seemed to have adopted a lower profile in preparation for this month's demonstration, observers said. No curfew was announced and the Army, while primed for action, was confined to barracks, according to an official report.

The four previous days of protest left 34 dead and hundreds wounded. The toll was blamed by the opposition on the Government for having created "conditions for violence."

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Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Government plans to fight unemployment by consolidating state expenditure and boosting public and private investment, according to the Minister of Economics, Count Otto Lambsdorff.

Defending the Government's tight 1984 budget before Parliament yesterday, Count Lambsdorff said that public employment programmes demanded by the Social Demo-

cratic opposition provided no long-term solutions to the jobs problem.

The budget debate, which opened in the Bundestag on Wednesday, coincided with a move by the Central Bank to raise its basic interest rate by an expected half per cent to 6.5 per cent.

The draft budget, approved by the Cabinet in May, foresees spending cuts mainly in maternity benefit and public sector pay,



Winning smile: Lidia Wasialek, aged 21, a medical student from Szczecin, who has been elected Miss Polonia, and become the first Eastern block contestant in the Miss World competition for 15 years.

Kohl boosts investment

From Our Correspondent, Munich Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Government plans to fight unemployment by consolidating state expenditure and boosting public and private investment, according to the Minister of Economics, Count Otto Lambsdorff.

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THE ARTS

Cinema: Geoff Brown on new releases in London and at the Edinburgh Film Festival, David Robinson in Venice

Double-dutching in city squalor

Wild Style ICA Cinema
Return Engagement (15) Screen on the Green
The Pirates of Penzance (U) Classic Shaftesbury Avenue
Cambridge Animation Festival



Tuning in: Liddy, left, and Leary

American slang, fashions and food have warmed their way into our culture, but that vast country across the Atlantic can still seem as mysterious and remote as Tibet or Papua New Guinea. Witness this week's new releases. Wild Style, for instance, could almost be taken for science-fiction. Characters live in garish squalor amongst buildings and trains transformed by aerosol cans into colourful kaleidoscopes of shapes and faces; when not spraying paint they expend their energies reeling impenetrable patter and rhythmically writing on the floor. Yet this is a semi-documentary, filled with the sights, sounds and population of New York's South Bronx, the mysterious activities go by such names as rapping, breaking, scratching and double-dutching.

Harvard professor and drugs prophet, responsible for the concept. 'Time in, turn on and rock out' the Home Secretary this week banned his progress and top to Britain to publicise his auto-biography. The second is Gordon Liddy, former lawyer, FBI agent, Nixon aide and mastermind of the Watergate burglary. O brave new world, as Miranda said, that has such people in it.

The brave new world of Wild Style may be circumscribed by urban poverty and violence, yet the film still carries a refreshingly optimistic charge. Writer-producer-director Charlie Ahearn has soaked himself in the Bronx environment and his sympathy for his subject is infectious. As a piece of cinema, Wild Style enjoys none of the slick effects and visual sheen lavished on Flashdance; but the rough-and-ready 16mm photography, the thunderous sound, straggling plot and pockets of wobbly dialogue never impede our enjoyment of the characters.

The New York Shakespeare Festival production of The Pirates of Penzance presents yet another curious American artefact: the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta decked-out with pounding new musical arrangements, manic choreography and pop luminaries like Linda Ronstadt and Rex Smith. The film version, directed by its stage progenitor Willford Brinley, was made at Shepperton in the winter of 1981-82, when the noise of the show's success still rang in people's ears.



Gerard Depardieu as the revolutionary Danton

Returning with the obscure

A lot of film history is made at festivals. Seventeen years ago Alexander Kluge's Ashes von Gestern won the special jury prize at Venice and proved a landmark in the subsequent launching of the new German cinema. This year Kluge is back in Venice with a new film. The Power of the Emotions, and a new manifesto, still defending the German cinema from the politicians who want to remove its subsidies.

The city has witnessed the changing fortunes of many Eastern European film directors in the post-war years. Andrzej Wajda, Poland's greatest director now deprived of his official posts, had two films here, both made outside his own country. Danton, his fine essay on revolutionary corruption and decline, was already in the making in France at the time of declaration of martial law in Poland in December 1981.

West Germany. The theme - a wartime love between a German and a Pole - remains to this day wholly unacceptable to the Polish censorship, which is probably why it is so attractive to Poles abroad. Krzysztof Zanussi's Paths in the Night told of the rather acidic attraction between a Polish countess and a young German officer. Based on a best-selling novel by Rolf Hochhuth, Wajda's film is about an earlier love affair between a village shopkeeper and a Polish prisoner of war.

Dogged by danger

Nineteen eighty-three should go down in Edinburgh Film Festival history as the year of the dog. Not content with Samuel Fuller's electrifying White Dog, the festival director Jim Hickey also served up Lewis Teague's Cujo, piping hot from Hollywood, featuring a rabid St Bernard lurking and slobbering to preposterous effect. After that, every spaniel in Princes Street Gardens seemed lethal, and the soporific documentaries about Cree Indians building a bar canoe suddenly acquired a new, if short-lived, charm.

Documentaries and independent films swamped the schedules; the dogs were there for icing, along with proven festival success shorty due for British release (Wajda's Danton, Zeffirelli's La Traviata). The sheer bulk of films at least enabled their virtues and vices to emerge with clarity. Joel DeMott and Jeff Kreines's study in American adolescence, Seventeen, offered an instructive array of cinema verité flaws: the camera swung madly to catch every character who talked, the lead girl showed off, and audience interest collapsed. Luckily, Australia's Celso and Cora triumphantly proved the genre's strengths. The director-grammer Gary Kilday unobtrusively tags along with his subjects - two of Manila's many unfortunates, struggling to keep their young family united and healthy by selling cigarettes (illegally) on the streets.

Two other documentaries stood out from the heap. Steve Dwoskin's Arts Council film Shadows from Light brilliantly explored the visual world of Bill Brandt's photographs by weaving his own patterns of shadow and light, with its beautifully stark black-and-white photography and gliding camerawork, this was among the festival's most arresting - and refreshing - items. Diane Orr and C. Larry Roberts's SL-1 offered far darker enchantments: the figures stalking in hypnotic slow motion were scientists from 1961, testing for radiation after an accident at an Idaho reactor; the film imaginatively juxtaposes archive clips, investigative interviews and goblets of poetic imagery.

Theatre A cast charged with high passion

Crime and Punishment Lyric, Hammersmith

Yuri Lyubimov's production opens with the sight of Raskolnikov derisively flashing a handheld lamp into our eyes and declaring that "a true Napoleon is permitted anything". It ends with a quotation from a schoolboy's story: "Raskolnikov was right to kill the old woman: too bad he got caught."

This, in short is not the kind of self-enclosed event that normally occupies the Western classical stage. It is an urgent re-examination of the arguments and axioms that fire Dostoevsky's characters, throwing its force and energy from the traditional Russian conviction that Art is important as a direct influence on human actions.

However, Lyubimov and Yuri Saniakin's version is totally unlike previous Russian novel adaptations that have played over here. Instead of chronological narrative, the action is split up and re-ordered in a flux of succession of episodic flashes, each one going straight to the central issue without any expository build-up.

Knowledge of the book is taken or granted. If supporting detail is needed it happens simultaneously, with the sight of a woman (Bill Stewart) going a wastrel to her room like a firm animal, or Katerina Ivanovna (Paola Dionisotti) leading her starving brood up from a crevice pit and across the stage in the midst of a related scene.

Senseless ICA

Mad scenes have always been the stuff of opera, from Donizetti's Anne Boleyn singing "Home sweet home" to Berg's Wozzeck and Harrison Birtwistle's psychopathic Mr Punch. Lumiere and Son now add to the list with this highly ambitious collaboration between their regular writer David Gale and the Australian composer Frank Millward.

The central character, Wade, is a violent killer like Wozzeck and Punch, but in a Take Six suit. A secret agent, in fact. Sent to a Caribbean island to eliminate a couple spying on the local American base, he has an affair with a girl who deserts him for a wealthy fellow-tourist. He flips, kills them both and returns to London, convinced that he has completed his mission.

of Revelation and the number of the Beast.

Mr Gale's style is off-puttingly flashy and self-conscious - "Mr Visage, the Q is most impressed by your produce, to our shadows you add a rayon" - but dumbly boundedly inventive, and gives an extraordinary picture of a disordered mind feverishly verbalizing and recycling remembered images. But inevitably, very little is audible. A words-music synthesis should be able to achieve anything, but practical limitations clip its wings; the initial impact of Punch and Judy is blunted for just this reason.

Mr Millward's music is not to blame, being lightly scored: a band of four, doubling strings, keyboards, percussion and fiddle-horn. It embraces its chances to be eerie, witty or lyrical but really striking passages are few: one investiture ensemble, accompanied by piano trio, is a delicious, dreamy jungle of sinuous vocal and instrumental lines. The arioso bits are beautiful without seeming necessary, but Jeanine Osborne (Elizabeth) and Heather Keens (Romaine) sing them gloriously.

Television Enervating imagery

You can do almost anything with a line, as Walt Disney demonstrated, and Taking a Line for a Walk (Channel 4) was conceived as a "homage to Paul Klee" in which various images from his work were used as material for an animated sequence: birds turned into paving stones, and caterpillars into blackboards, Proteus and Edward Lear run riot. In fact everything turned into something else: it was very busy.

Although it was agreeable to watch, as most cartoons for some reason are, it was also a curiously enervating experience; what we saw was the creation of patterns without any underlying form, doodles rather than pictures, scales rather than music.

was not convinced by her contrast between the "art film" (her own) and the "entertainment film" (most of the rest). The danger of distinguishing in this way is that it gives the misleading impression that art is not, or cannot be, entertaining.

This documentary ought to have raised the question of how great a contribution computer technology can make to human creativity, rather than simply accepting it as an evident fact. Since Lesley Keen's film used a combination of computer and "hand crafted" material in such a way that they became indistinguishable, does this imply that human skills - in the area of visual display at least - are in some way diminished? Could Paul Klee have been replaced by a machine? Fortunately, he will never know. Unfortunately, we may.

The Lighthouse Canongate Lodge

Cambridge University Opera Society are making their Edinburgh Fringe debut this year with a trilogy of work directed by John Bratherton: Fidelia, The Terrorist, and this week Peter Maxwell Davies's The Lighthouse.

Hilary Finch at the Edinburgh Festival

Christopher Roberts, the band is not yet always tidy or pungent; yet in keeping alert watch on three sides of a tiny square space its sounds creep in chillingly like the tendrils of the sea-death or the maw of the imagined Beast.

Orchestra of the 18th Century Usher Hall

Drummers, I am sure frequently feel taken for granted; yet it is not charity that causes me to single out the timpanist of Frans Bruggen's two-year-old Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century.

Irving Wardle

rediscover then recreate afresh the raison d'être for the minutest point of scoring, or the context and sensibility of each stage in the music's harmonic evolution.

Concert Giving the finish some polish

Whether Barok was entirely accurate when he told William Primrose that his Viola Concerto was complete in draft form we cannot at present know: one hopes he did not exaggerate as much as Egar about his Third Symphony. The solo part, played with commanding authority in Wednesday's Prom by Nobuko Imai, sounds indeed a finished piece of work from the glorious serenity of the central Adagio (in which the anguish of Barok's last string quartet begins to resolve itself) to the powerful scutterings of the final Allegro which return to the biting folk rhythms of Barok's earlier music.

NEXT WEEK AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE

Advertisement for National Theatre productions including 'The Leopard', 'The Rivals', 'Guys and Dolls', and 'Glengarry Glen Ross'.

Curtain up on the impresarios

moreover... Miles Kington

Have we tried the 1948 file?

There are no conventional routes to becoming an impresario, as Raymond Gubbay, the concert promoter and Duncan Weldon, the theatrical producer, would agree. Both work in fields in which there is little room for rival contenders, and both operate almost entirely without subsidy, offering themselves to the harsh mercies of market forces.

The requirements, it seems, are a readiness to take commercial and artistic risks, an endless capacity for work, and an early start. Gubbay promoted his first concert in 1966, at the age of 20. It was a Gilbert and Sullivan evening at the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds, involving four singers and a piano. By 1968 he had mounted his first South Bank concert, a Donald Swann programme with poems by Benjamin and Tolkien set to music. Three years ago he donned a tin hat and toured the uncompleted Barbican Centre with its administrator Henry Wrons, placing an early series of bookings in the concert hall, and today he promotes regular lunchtime concerts there, where audiences can hear an hour of symphonic music for £2 a head.

Weldon entered the theatre at the age of 12, working as a call-boy for three years in his home town of Southport. It was the beginning of the television age, and his passion was to see and to take autographs from such television celebrities as Vic Oliver when they came touring to his local theatre. Now he is the chairman and managing director of Triumph Apollo, one of the driving forces in world drama.

While the two men work in highly contrasting media, there are some illuminating parallels in their ascents.

The sound of music and success

Raymond Gubbay agrees there are similarities between himself and Duncan Weldon: "Well, for a start, we are both nice Jewish boys made good."

There is a certain truth in this, but it needs qualifying. For while Weldon comes from an affluent middle-class family, albeit one which had precious little connexion with the performing arts, Gubbay has clawed his way up from modest Golders Green origins.

Still only 37, he is arguably the most successful promoter of popular classical music in the country, more so even than Victor Hochhauser, for whom he worked 19 years ago for a most informative "10 months, 28 days and 12 hours".

By the end of this year he will have presented more than 100 concerts in London at the Barbican Centre, of which there is no greater fan than he, and a similar number at centres such as the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Fairfield Hall, and in the provinces.

He readily admits that he and his wife are their own Joe Public, and that his childhood immersion in the Strauss/Vienna mode has greatly informed his professional judgments. His democratic tastes have won him not only the support of the public but the scepticism, occasionally manifesting itself as grudging acclaim, of the classical music establishment. Of the four London orchestras, the London Symphony appears the most embarrassed by his advance, for while their performances at the Barbican have had houses often no higher than 65 per cent capacity, 40 of Gubbay's first 50 concerts at the centre were sell-outs, the average turnout has been 90 per cent, and only three evenings have filled fewer than half the seats.

His simple but unassailable philosophy of "giving the people what they want to see" has brought him into a somewhat unlikely alliance with Tony Banks, chairman of the Greater London Council's art and recreation committee. After all, Gubbay himself is a "... go on, say it. A successful capitalist", while Banks is a "... that's right, one of Red Ken's bunch". Yet compare these two credos, the first set out by Banks in a recent letter to *The Times*, and the second by Gubbay.

Banks: "The civic leaders who brought these great (London concert) halls into being with public money wanted them to have excellent standards, but would not want to see them half empty as they are now. There must be much better marketing of concerts so that they compete strongly with going to the cinema and theatre, going out to dinner or staying at home with hi-fi or video."

Gubbay: "From the programmes which I mount, people do look at what else is going on in the concert halls. There is a sort of cross-fertilization. If they come along to mine, maybe they'll go to someone else's and if they go to someone else's maybe they'll come along to mine."

There is an obvious temptation to say that Gubbay's shamelessly populist format is in danger of lowering standards and of installing wallpaper music in what should be conservatories of high seriousness and - the inevitable word - "excellence". True, he has marketed, with staggering success, a number of *Magic of Vienna* programmes, a Rodgers and Hammerstein evening, a Joshua Rifkin concert of Scott Joplin rags, as well as presenting a notable tourist draw, *London: Historic City in Film*, and the newly restored epic movie *Napoleon*, complete with orchestral accompaniment. True, his brochures verge on the



Raymond Gubbay: nice Jewish boy made good. Duncan Weldon: work, work and more work



brush, in conventional concert hall terms, with their circled RG logos and immediately identifiable house style. Yet a closer perusal of the programmes reveals a range of performers in which Harry Rabinowitz cohabits with Richard Hickox, G and S with Mozart, Rifkin with Beethoven. Massed Guards with the Philharmonia.

"It is true that I have created my own following over the years," says Gubbay, "and that I have built up what you might call a brand image... yes, of course I've had my failures. I suppose the most recent example was when I promoted a concert performance of *The Gondoliers*, which, I agree, doesn't sound particularly original. I got hold of Richard Hickox, who brought his favourite singers. It was a fantastic line-up. In years to come, people will look at that programme and say: 'How could they have afforded that group of singers?' It was a fantastically good performance. It should have been recorded and kept for posterity. But nobody came. We had just 600 people, I think. OK, so I learnt. If people don't want to come, they won't, so we won't do anything like that again."

For the most part, however, Gubbay gets it right. Despite the basic rental of £1,000 a night for the Barbican, plus 12½ per cent of the takings, plus fees that range between a few hundred and several thousands of pounds for the top performers, plus the overheads of his four-strong operation in Tottenham Court Road, he still makes a profit which he describes, with a gale of laughter that sounds remarkably like euphemism, as "reasonable". Then he adds: "In commercial terms, what I do, to an outsider, is not particularly attractive or viable. I enjoy it because it's fun, and because I can earn my living this way."

As in Weldon's case, the formula must be matched in equal part by workaholicism, and there is never a Gubbay concert in London at which its instigator is not present, looking around, talking to the players, speculating on the social profile of his

punters and, of course, watching the seats fill up. Until the returns of the Barbican's own questionnaires come in during October, it is hard to categorize with any accuracy Gubbay's constituency. He knows that 52 per cent of his bookings are through credit card, but agrees that this could mean many things; he knows also that the Barbican bus, commuting from the centre to the main rail terminals, has twice as many passengers on its nights. But again, this could be confusing evidence. "It could be that my audiences come from the suburbs and beyond rather than from the centre, or that they are simply too mean to take a cab." Or both. The one certainty is that they come.

Working hard, playing hard

Duncan Weldon's love affair with the theatre began when he was a 12-year-old in Southport; 30 years later it remains a *grand passion* which consumes him for 17 hours of the day. Like Gubbay, he is at one of his shows nearly every night and, again like Gubbay, he has plenty to choose from since his company, Triumph Apollo, will by the end of the year have mounted no fewer than 40 productions.

Of that total, some 20 will have appeared in London, most of them having toured in the provinces first. Already this year Weldon has put on the Haymarket repertory season with *Heartbreak House*, *School for Scandal*, *Uncle Panya* and *Keen*. When Peter Ustinov's play *Beethoven's Tenth* goes to the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles, he is engineering an exchange involving Jack Lemmon and Charlton Heston. The list goes on and on. In

October Joan Plowright and Frank Finlay open in *The Cherry Orchard*, directed by Lindsay Anderson, again at the Haymarket. Beryl Reid in a new revue, Danny La Rue playing the female lead in *Hello Doll!*, and then the round of pantomimes, which still represent for Weldon one of the most rewarding forms of entertainment.

As with Gubbay, it is the eclecticism of his operation that pre-empted harsh criticism of his fiscal motivation. He too has had his flops - most recently the controversial *Great and Small* when in Manchester. As a producer in the unusual position of working almost entirely without "angels", he realizes that it is only the profits from box-office success that will finance the lean periods.

That "nice Jewish boy made good" tag of Gubbay's really applies to Weldon only if you accept that his father, in the best and worst of Jewish traditions, was not exactly supportive about the young Duncan's ambitions in the theatre.

"The family business was a chain of photographic shops, and my father said I could either join it or go into the theatre. But he said, if you go into the theatre you can piss off. Well, I wasn't going to become a roving vagabond with no means of income, so I joined the business."

Like many a Jewish son before him, he was worked harder by his father than were any of the other employees, but he also managed to make the link between his lot and his vocation by taking publicity photos for provincial theatres. In this way he became friendly with several actors, particularly David Kossoff. He was even asked by the actor to help wear his son Paul from his drug addiction. The effort failed, of course, and Paul died a few years later.

Weldon describes his early progress as a producer as "doing plays with David, then doing plays without David... the rest of the story, you know". Well, not quite. We know that he employs more actors than the National Theatre and Royal Shakes-

peare Company combined, that his average expenditure on each production is £100,000 (four times that in the case of musicals), and that he now often gives work to the great names, the Richardsons, Harrison and Morleys, who were filling the theatre in Southport when he was a call-boy.

We know also that he enjoyed a fruitful association with Louis Michaels, the impresario and theatre chain owner. What we do not know is the formula for such growth. If you accept Weldon's analysis you must believe that the whole thing is based almost entirely on three things: work, work, and more work. Surely this is disingenuous; there must be something more, apart from the conspicuously good business head. Some talent, like Gubbay's for spotting a hole in the market and then conjuring up the appropriate plug?

It would seem not: Weldon may be a supplier of work and a filler of theatres, but he is not an initiator like Gubbay; he has a faith in the drawing capacity of star actors, rather than in the value of an innovative repertoire. *Great and Small* notwithstanding. So we are back to the basic commodity of hard work. Weldon makes clawing motions in the air and says, with a sudden grimace: "Clawing your way up. That's what it is. Clawing and clawing."

The clawing begins at 7.00 each morning when he receives what he calls "my alarm call". In fact it comes from the agent Richard Stone, who stays talking for half an hour about business and clients, six mornings a week. "Richard is a close friend, though. He tells me I'm the only person he knows who gets started as early as that, so he can get me out of the way for the day."

Weldon works in Waldorf Chambers, high above the Aldwych, in what used to be Ivor Novello's flat. His own desk is the old music room, and his desk stands where the grand piano used to be. Through the door is the bedroom where the composer died in 1951. On the walls of the passage are the posters of Weldon's productions, stretching back into the 1960s.

"Hard work," he says. "The fact is that I am in love with the theatre, and I find the quiet days harder than the busy ones. Whatever success I may have had I owe to the fact that I am quite simply ready to put in more hours than anybody else. In this business you can't hope to put in nine-to-five hours five days a week and expect to make a go of it."

It is hardly surprising that Weldon regards theatrical subsidy as a mixed blessing. "Don't get me wrong, I am not against it, I simply believe that it carries the danger of making the recipient lazy. If I do a show, it is either my own or my friends' money." He has little time for subsidized companies who complain about going through a lean time, then put up "an obscure, 12-set, 30-hand play".

Weldon stresses that his profits are not colossal, and that anyway the theatre is not a profession which attracts aspiring money-makers. Which takes him back again to his call-boy times: "In those days I made £1 a week, and everything I got paid was total profit. I wish I made a £1 profit these days." Dramatic licence, perhaps.

Alan Franks

Barbara Gamarekian learns what US presidents talk about in the barber's chair

The man who knows the heads of state

Washington To a small, inconspicuous barber's shop in the lower lobby of the Sheraton-Carlton hotel, a block from the White House, comes a parade of Cabinet secretaries, top-level White House personnel and members of Congress. The walls are lined with personally inscribed photographs of the clientele, and the names tell the tale: Reagan, Regan, Shultz, Haig, Weinberger, Erlichman, Nixon, Meese, Baker, Bush, Ford, Rockefeller, Kissinger, Deaver.

"To Ma Pitts, with thanks for keeping me neat and trim," wrote Donald T. Regan, the Secretary of the Treasury.

"To my friend Milt with warm, best wishes - AL" wrote the former Secretary of State, Alexander M. Haig Jr.

The telephone rings. It is the office of Secretary of State George P. Shultz, cancelling an appointment because of the downing of a South Korean jetliner by a Soviet fighter plane.

The lure for these famous customers is Milton H. Pitts, a rosy-faced man who wears his own silver mane in a softly swept-back pompadour. He has been the White House barber for three Republican presidents - Nixon, Ford and Regan - and is now in what Washingtonians like to call private practice.

Vice-President Bush has been a customer for a dozen years. "In fact, the day he announced his candidacy for the presidency, I cut his hair," Mr Pitts recalled. Most of his customers, he said, reveal no great state secrets but are always ready for small talk. But Kissinger is the type of fellow who is always reading, he said, and Gerry Ford - he was a very friendly, informal man, but he wasn't much for talk; he always had something to read. "As for Regan, we talk about old movies and old stuff like that," said Pitts. "He's a very warm person. I don't see why these women don't like him."

It was back in the early days of the Nixon presidency, he recalls, that a limousine pulled up to his shop, then situated on Wisconsin Avenue, and Alexander P. Butterfield, a White House aide, walked in. He was interviewing candidates for the job of White House barber.

"I told him I felt honoured, that I had even voted for Mr Nixon, but to this day I don't know how I came to their attention," Mr Pitts declared.

Several weeks later, as he was participating in a barber and beauty show at a local hotel - recently dressed, he recalled, in a blue suede shoes, a grey suit, pink shirt and a bow-tie - a telephone call summoned him to the White House. "The president wants to see you at noon."

Assuming that the new president was of a conservative bent, Mr Pitts made a hurried trip to his Chevy Chase home and changed into a dark blue suit, white shirt and dark tie. Within the hour, he was at the White House.

President Nixon, whom I had never met before, came in. He was wearing a red sports jacket, grey trousers, blue shirt and bow tie. I cut his hair in 18 minutes."

In the Nixon and Ford years Mr Pitts spent each Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am until 7 pm at the White House, in a small room set up as a barber's in the basement of the West Wing. His customers, whom he charged his regular \$15 fee, were Cabinet officers and members of the senior White House staff. The Carter White House years were lean ones for Mr Pitts in terms of White House access. President Carter chose to have his wife's hairstylist trim his locks in the privacy of the family quarters and Mr Pitts decided that if the man at the top was not going to use his services, he would move on. However, old White House customers such as Henry A. Kissinger, William Safire and William Simon continued to visit him at his unisex hairstylist's at the Sheraton.

©New York Times News Service, 1983

Roy Scheider (an actor) was sounding off in Monday's *Film* '83 about our lack of privacy, and how now helicopters could peer in at our windows and find out what the CIA and FBI didn't already know. This, by an extraordinary coincidence, was the message of a film called *Blue Thunder* which he has just completed. Things were getting more and more like - here Scheider paused to think of a crushing simile - 1984! Barry Norman, back to his best waspish form, told us that he had searched the film high and low for a message and found only helicopters shooting each other down, in the aerial equivalent of car chases.

For my part, I am convinced that things are getting more and more like 1984, and that since we are now in the second half of 1983 it would be foolish to expect anything else. Whatever else happens, January 1 will see the start of 1984. There's nothing we can do about it. If we were really worried, we would have done something by now; just as people living in Flat 13 often rename it 12a, we could easily have agreed that next year was 1983a or gone straight to 1985. Nothing like that has happened, and I'm sure it's because none of us is really scared of 1984.

Among the things that distinguish humans from other animals is the capacity to believe in two diametrically opposed facts at the same time. The example most often quoted is the way very few of us believe in astrology and yet most of us regularly read our stars. Again, we firmly believe that everything that appears on television is kept for posterity, yet most of us are convinced that the BBC wipes out everything of value - it is one of the myths of our time that no Hancock exists on film any more. (I guess the truth is somewhere in between: the BBC keeps a great deal, but can't find any of it.)

To come to the important point, everyone has a lingering belief that Big Brother has tabs on all of us, with our complete dossier ready to flick up on the computer read-out screen at a moment's notice. But this is rivalled by our belief that Big Brother can never find the relevant information when it is needed. We don't seem to have a record of that... we can't find your papers... your details seem to have gone missing... can we have the information again, please? Either Big Brother is all-seeing, or he isn't.

As luck would have it, Roy Scheider was preceded on the screen by the director of *Blue Thunder*, who said that helicopters were in order to work with, as it was impossible to get them to do the right thing. I think the message here is that if you see a helicopter apparently peering through your window, it is actually desperately struggling to keep aloft and on course, and hasn't got much spare time to spy on you. Personally, I have always hoped and prayed that Big Brother keeps tabs on my phone calls and correspondence, as I need all the help I can get with it, but I'm afraid that, if all-seeing, he is probably short-sighted and can't find his specs.

Years ago, when I was young and had spare time, I entered a *Private Eye* contest to get a fake letter in *The Times*. I succeeded, using a false name and address. In the weeks that followed, I got a fair bit of correspondence addressed to that fictional person: 24-hour plumbers, flat-clearing services, appeal funds and a vicar in south London looking for a jungle.

Under that false name I had entered a new existence on Big Brother's files. And it has started to happen again in the past few weeks, when I have got mail from *Newsweek* magazine, the *Old Vic* and other places, addressed to E. Miles. Somehow I have got on to a Big Brother dossier with my names reversed, and a new person has sprung to life, someone who goes to the Old Vic and reads American weeklies. He's welcome, I don't think I could read "the best-informed weekly in the world" if I wasn't even informed of my correct name.

No, I'm not particularly scared of 1984. For every one time I hear the cry: "How did they get hold of this information?", I hear ten people thundering: "Why didn't the authorities know about this - surely they must have been aware...?" No, the only thing that worries me is that very soon we are going to have to find a completely new phrase for 1984. Roy Scheider is going to look pretty stupid when he is publicising his new film, in 1985 and says that things are getting more and more like 1984. Unless, of course, he means things are getting better.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 145)

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

- ACROSS: 1 Theatre gallery (7) 2 Fox pas (5) 3 Climbing plant (3) 4 Collar band (7) 5 Music for nine (5) 6 Large arm (4) 7 Contested closely (7) 8 Crash neutraliser (5) 9 Graduate (7) 10 Aquarium fish (4) 11 Loyal follower (5) 12 Payment to ex-wife (7) 13 Whole amount (3) 14 Footways (5) 15 Crushing riot (5,4)
- DOWN: 1 Tie up (4) 2 Riches (5) 3 Frankness (13) 4 Produce (5) 5 Women's doctor (11) 6 Admirable society (7) 7 Embryonic outer (5,5) 8 the (8) 9 Edible mollusc (8) 10 Wealthy (7) 11 Brand (5) 12 Bilbo Baggins' nephew (5) 13 Church song (4)

SOLUTION TO No 144 ACROSS: 1 Speedo 5 Eccle 8 Pax 9 Nosh up 10 Archil 11 Jowl 12 Detritus 13 Pennon 15 Cutlet 17 Flap 20 Army 22 Opener 23 Outlaw 24 YDU 25 Gestira 26 Surety DOWN: 2 Photo 3 Echehon 4 Oppidan 5 Evalt 6 Cacti 7 Tribune 14 Eclipse 15 Copious 16 Treator 18 Punks 19 Larva 21 Meant Price-inflating Concise Crossword tomorrow

سكزانت الاصل

FRIDAY PAGE

TALKBACK

Slimming danger

From Dr William Parry-Jones, The Warneford Hospital, Warneford Lane, Headington, Oxford.

The medical significance of the fashions introduced in the sixties by Barbara Hulanicki, featured recently in Spectrum (August 15) cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed.

The era of the Twiggy phenomenon and the fashion industry's remorseless preoccupation with slimmness has coincided with an unprecedented increase in the prevalence of eating disorders in teenage girls and young women. Anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa are serious disorders with far reaching physical, emotional and social consequences and they can make life a misery for the victims and their families. Their treatment poses a major challenge to medical services and self help organizations. While many questions about these disorders remain unanswered, there is widespread agreement that the social pressure on women to be slim is one of the major causative factors.

The "classic" Bitch diet and the "beautiful skinny people" may have been a "designer's dream", but the quest for an unrealistic and unattainable ideal has turned into a secret nightmare for thousands of women.

Still in fear

From a reader in south-west London

As one of those "battered wives" we hear so much about, I would like to put another side of the access rights controversy.

For years I was married to a very violent man until I finally escaped with my two sons to a Woman's Aid refuge. In due course I obtained various injunctions, custody orders and my decrees. Because I feel that my sons had a right to see him I did not fight the access order. I am now committed, for the next 10 years, to making sure that the children are at a certain place at a certain time three Sundays a month.

What this means is that I can never be free of him. He will always know where I am, what I do, whom I see and who visits me; he questions the children about this all the time.

I lost my home and all my possessions (my fear of reprisal outweighed everything else), and I can hardly be said to have gained my freedom or even peace of mind. Having lived in fear of this man for years I find I am still living in fear of him - because the access rights demand that I have to do so.

Having a binary time, wish you were here

Computer holiday camps are the latest thing for youngsters who get more fun out of programming than building sand castles. Peta Levi finds out what goes on among the keyboard kids

There are now about two million computers in Britain - more per head of population than any other country. For increasing numbers of children, hooked on computing, the idea of a perfect holiday is not hours with buckets and spades but days spent gazing into television screens, playing computer games and writing computer programs, in computer holiday camps.

Computers have been called divorce makers. Husbands who become obsessed with computing tend to lock themselves away in a spare bedroom, ignoring their wives and families. Children can disappear for hours of solitary play with their sophisticated toys. Computers can become addictive.

Peter John, aged 13, from Northumbria, explained: "Time flies and I get so involved in writing programs that it is difficult to even to turn round to look at a clock, so I usually set my alarm clock. When it goes, I stop." He has written a program which, he says, makes him receive higher marks at maths and he thinks that programming has made him think more logically. "I didn't get the point of algebra and trigonometry until I got my computer," he said.

For children like Peter, traditional family holidays can seem dull. This year he was one of 55 young people (and three adults) who went to Computer Park '83 at Grendon Hall, Northamptonshire, run by Allen Carter, Director of the Machine Assisted Teaching Project at Nene College, Northampton, and Peter Tilsley, a microcomputer consultant.

Some computer holidays are simply an adventure or activities holiday plus up to two hours of computing a day. At Computer Park '83 the focus of the holiday was computing. Seventy computers (of 11 different makes) were available from 9am to 9pm and there were a number of other computer-related machines - robots, music synthesizers, a simulation of landing

and taking off a jumbo jet from Gatwick and a program for disco lights.

It is not a structured course and all activities were optional. One computer supervisor, their ages ranging between 17 and 24 - was allotted to each group of five children. The mornings were given over to learning how to build a computer or a learning a new computer language; in the afternoon, despite the rival lure of sailing, shooting, archery and canoeing, most children preferred to stay on the computers. Evenings were devoted to computer demonstrations and workshops.

"Last year we found the children were skipping lunch and staying up until midnight," said Carter. "We reluctantly decided to lock the computer rooms over lunch and at 9pm to make sure they ate and got some fresh air." This year the supervisors' biggest problem was clearing the computer rooms at 9pm. It often took as long as an hour to prise the last children from their computers. At lunchtime, the dining room emptied within half an hour as children raced back to the machines.

The rise in computer interest among children can be measured by the demand for such holidays. Last year, Carter and Tilsley organized a single computer holiday of one week, which was oversubscribed. This year they arranged three one-week holidays; all were fully booked - attracting children

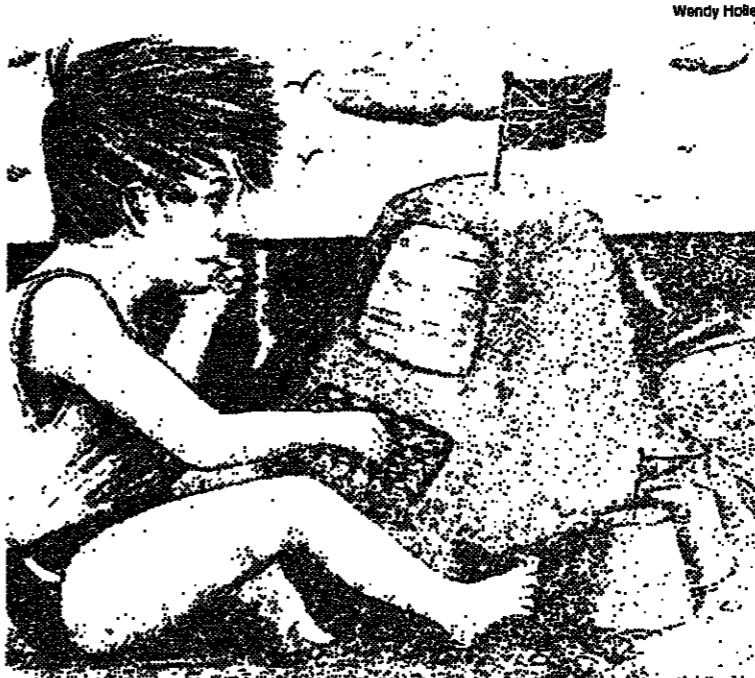
from as far away as Portugal and Nigeria - and more young children (aged between 10 and 12) took part. Almost all the children on the camp have their own computers at home.

The children were of mixed abilities and came from a wide range of backgrounds. However, the relative absence of girls was noticeable - only three (and one mother) out of 55. Carter said: "The maddening thing is that there is no difference in aptitude or ability, but what clearly is happening is that psychological and social pressures are operating the same way in computing as they did in engineering. Computing is not seen to be a thing for girls, which is absolute nonsense. It is also said on a national level that we are losing half the potential talent."

Perhaps it was not surprising that two of the girls at Computer Park '83, 14-year-old Natasha Franklin and her sister Camilla, aged 12, from Buckinghamshire, had not asked to go on the computer holiday. Unbeknown to them, their father had booked them on it. Natasha said: "He thought we ought to learn how to use a computer. We didn't know what to expect, but it was great fun. There are lots of activities and we even enjoyed the computing."

As with all beginners, they started with an intensive two-day course.

The third girl, 15-year-old Katie Godwin, had come for the second year running. Her mother, a secretary, came on her own the following



Wendy Hoyle

Take a turnip Miss Smith

"The farmer wants a wife", according to the nursery rhyme. Perhaps. But a secretary? The two do not seem, even metaphorically, to walk hand in hand. The world of mud and slurry, green gumboots, and late-night lambing seems far removed from that of polished desks and soft carpets, dictaphones, and typewriters.

But farming has changed, and so has secretaries. There is now an Institute of Agricultural Secretaries, and tomorrow it is to hold a seminar at North Oxfordshire Technical College, Banbury.

The moving spirit behind the institute is its present chairman, Jenny Barker, a small, energetic woman who started as a secretary with the Thames Water Authority, for which she still works, part time. But on most days, she drives around the Oxfordshire countryside, calling in at farms for a few hours at a time to help with the accounts and correspondence.

In the past 20 years farms have become not only much larger, but also far more complex operations and many farmers are not able to cope with the administrative as well as the physical work.

One of her part-time employers is Mr John Homewood who farms 600 acres of arable crops near Abingdon. The family also has a pig unit of 250 sows, and some 5,000 turkeys and geese which they fatten for the Christmas market.

"It was about a year and a half ago, when we put in the pig unit, that my son Geoffrey, decided he could not manage both that and all the paperwork," Mr Homewood recalls. "We were introduced to Jenny through a friend, and now she is like one of the family."

To help farmers to determine the cost-effectiveness of various schemes, Jenny has bought her own computer. Some of its most popular uses are for wages, stock control, budgeting, and VAT returns.

"A farm secretary must have considerable technical knowledge of the mechanics of farming," she says. "Ideally, she should also be able to do practical jobs like driving a tractor, or helping with the milking."

"It is a real, and responsible career, not just a means of earning a bit of pin money."

John Young

On Monday

Modern Times meets the people who stand up to make you laugh

Looking into a child's heart

In 1980 heart disease, normally associated with middle age, obesity and high blood pressure, killed 1,378 children under 14 - almost 11 in every 100 deaths of children. The number is not only surprising but alarming. Research funds are paltry: even the British Heart Foundation gave only 3.7 per cent of its budget of £12,386,000 over the last five years to research in paediatric cardiology. The causes of congenital heart disease - heart defects from birth - are relatively unexplored.

"We do know that drugs like thalidomide and, to a much lesser extent, phenytoin, used against epilepsy, can cause damage. So can German measles contracted during pregnancy," said Professor Ferus Macartney, who holds the British Heart Foundation's Vandervell Chair of Paediatric Cardiology at the Institute of Child Health in London and is also an honorary consultant at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

"Sometimes problems are located in the electrical wiring of the heart in the atrioventricular junction, dividing upper chambers from lower," he said. "But till recently these problems were very difficult to sort out even with the most sophisticated methods."

Last year Great Ormond Street carried out open-heart operations on 250 children with congenital heart disease. About two-thirds of the sufferers do so very well with surgery and go on to lead normal, unrestricted lives. But a third either cannot be operated on or remain in ill health after surgery the professor said.

The case history of Alistair Grieve, aged 17, of South Woodham, Essex, illustrates the suffering of young heart patients in graphic terms.

Alistair, who is an advertising



The Grieves - Doreen, Elliot, Neil, Jan Tom and Alistair

student, now appears alert, friendly and energetic. He is 5ft 10in, and weighs only eight and a half stone. A thick scar runs from his neck to navel, testimony to three open-heart operations, the first at the age of three months.

He weighed less than 6lb at birth in 1966, and soon lost weight, turning grey and refusing feeds: he just slept. The family doctor diagnosed mucus on the chest, but his mother Doreen and the health visitor sought a second opinion from the paediatric consultant at Whipp's Cross Hospital in Leytonstone.

Within days Alistair was operated on to bind the pulmonary artery which was spilling blood. After four months he was discharged weighing 6lb; he was so fragile that his mother was frightened to touch him.

The operation retarded him in feeding himself and walking, which he only managed at 18 months. Drugs

and check-ups became a way of life and if he cut himself he was given antibiotics to prevent blood infection reaching the heart. He remained weak and confined mostly to a wheelchair. "It was humiliating because by the time I was four, children of my own age would sneer at me," Alistair said.

Normal school was unthinkable but at four and half he started at the Ethel Davis School for handicapped children at Goodmayes, Essex. There he was able to walk and push the others in their wheelchairs. "They were far worse off than I was," he said.

Alistair endured an operation lasting over four hours, which improved his circulation. But two years later Alistair was again very weak. One day as Mrs Grieve was lifting the 11-year-old boy out of bed he fell, banging his head against the bedside table. "There was no reaction," she said. "But downstairs he started twitching and going blank. Suddenly

he became paralyzed down his left side and lost all power of speech. I was horrified. I thought he'd suffered a stroke." The next day an abscess on the brain was removed at Great Ormond Street.

Alistair recovered enough to start at Caversham High Comprehensive School where he picked up two O levels and four CSEs. "But still he wasn't leading a normal life," said his father Tom Grieve, an electrician. "We had to watch him all the time for fear of something happening in the road with cars. Sometimes he'd sneak out to play with his brothers but after 10 minutes' running he'd be exhausted and have to spend the next two or three days sleeping it off in bed."

At 14, Alistair agreed to a risky third operation. The nine-hour, by-pass surgery was a success and after three months' convalescence he learnt to swim and took up badminton and cricket.

"I feel good now," Alistair says. "I just hope it lasts for a while."

To discover the causes of congenital heart disease, Professor Macartney's base is building up a huge computer data base to improve diagnosis and decision-making.

It is already possible for doctors to get a picture of the heart, using electrocardiograms and computers, in 17 dimensional space - allowing them to give correct diagnoses three quarters of the time. Already signs in unborn babies can be seen with scanners at 16 weeks of life. This vital information enables doctors to decide in advance if surgery may be necessary.

"These developments give us clues," Professor Macartney said, "and that gives us hope for the future."

Paul Nathanson

How to keep baby sound asleep

Babies after delivery seem to miss the emotional security provided by the close embrace of a noisy womb. Mid-style nannies rapped a shawl faintly round their charges to reproduce some of the constriction, such as they had experienced during the previous 40 weeks. More modern child care experts in Japan are extending this principle by recording womb noises and then playing them back to the unconscious in the cot.

Bandai Industries, Japanese toy makers, have cooperated with Dr Hajime Murooka, of the Nippon Medical School, to produce a customized integrated circuit. They claim that after listening to the battery charged microphone, four out of five infants drifted off to sleep, usually within minutes. The manufacturers suggest that this method is so consistently effective that the failure may be a pointer to early deafness.

The system has been tried with success at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield: earlier experiments with different recordings at King's College in London were not so encouraging. The machines are now to be made available for testing in private homes.

Soon, it is hoped, godparents will be able to give a teddy bear which makes a noise more useful than the usual squeak so that their godchildren will be spared sleeping draughts and the parents sleeplessness.

Cat caution

Cats can be blamed for Sebastian Coe's lack of form on the running track just as surely as if he had tripped over one. Blood tests have shown that he is suffering from a cat-borne disease,

MEDICAL BRIEFING

acquired toxoplasmosis; apparently he has it in the lymphatic, so-called mild form which has similar symptoms to glandular fever, enlarged lymph glands, muscle pains, a temperature, and a general feeling of being vaguely unwell. Recovery is slow, it sometimes becomes chronic, and can, in susceptible people with lowered resistance, occasionally occur in an acute form.

Although all animals can be infected by toxoplasmosis, it is only in the cat's gut that the parasitic protozoan organism, *Toxoplasma gondii*, reproduces: the oocysts form there are passed in the cat's faeces, which can then contaminate badly stored food, or poorly washed hands.

Serious consequences can follow an infection during pregnancy: blood tests show that two or three of every 1,000 pregnant British women catch the disease. About 30 per cent of infected mothers transmit the organism to their unborn child, but fortunately only a tiny fraction of them are born with or later develop the clinical signs of congenital toxoplasmosis which can include disabling complications resulting from brain and eye disease. Even so it seems that this disease is responsible for one in every 500 severely mentally retarded children.

Contrary to reports, the disease is not rare, only rarely diagnosed. Careful studies with blood testing have shown that 1 per cent of the population is infected every year. The medical lessons are obvious. Cats should not be allowed in the kitchen, dining room or nursery, and their owners should wash their hands very carefully, if they have stroked the cat and intend to eat.

Thinking back

Mr Keith Carmichael, the Briton in an Arab jail who is suffering from a compression fracture of one of the bones in his spine, has severe pain spreading to the areas supplied by the nerves leaving the spinal column at the site of the fracture.

His publicized misfortune might help others to understand the association between injury or disease in the back with pain elsewhere in the body, for one of his complaints is of loin and groin pain.

Although patients are always ready to accept that sciatic pain may be due to spinal problems, they seem reluctant to believe that this mechanism can effect different levels of the spine and give rise to pain in other parts of the body. This point has been made by Mr E C Ashby, an orthopaedic surgeon, in a review of loin and groin pain in *Lipdate*, a postgraduate medical management journal.

Doctors can often demonstrate that the pain comes from the spine by showing that it is related to posture and movement. Loin and groin pain can cause such anxiety that patients find it hard to believe that it sometimes stems from back trouble and not always from sexual indiscretion.

Breathtaking

Over a million people in Britain wheeze, or have had attacks of wheezing, so that while an annual death rate of 1,500 from asthma poses an important problem for doctors, it represents only a remote

danger for any individual patient. Until the 1930s, it was mistakenly taught that asthma was never fatal, and this outdated lore still lingers in the layman's mind sometimes with lethal consequences.

Dr A E Tattersfield and Dr M J Cusley from Southampton University have published a paper in this month's *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, discussing the problems of sudden asthmatic death. Probably the commonest cause is too little treatment too late.

Analysis has shown that in many cases the apparently rapidly fatal attack has been preceded by days of progressively deteriorating lung function. Unfortunately, both patients and doctors are as bad at noticing this as they are at assessing the severity of an acute attack. Some patients not only underestimate its seriousness because they have become accustomed to the discomforts of breathlessness, but minimize their difficulties in an effort not to be a nuisance with their recurrent disability.

All doctors should, in Dr Tattersfield's view, supplement their clinical assessment with objective airflow estimations: it is a straightforward procedure, carried out with a simple instrument and is no more complex than taking blood pressure. The pulse rate, too, gives an indication of severity, a rate of over 130 being associated with a high risk of complications.

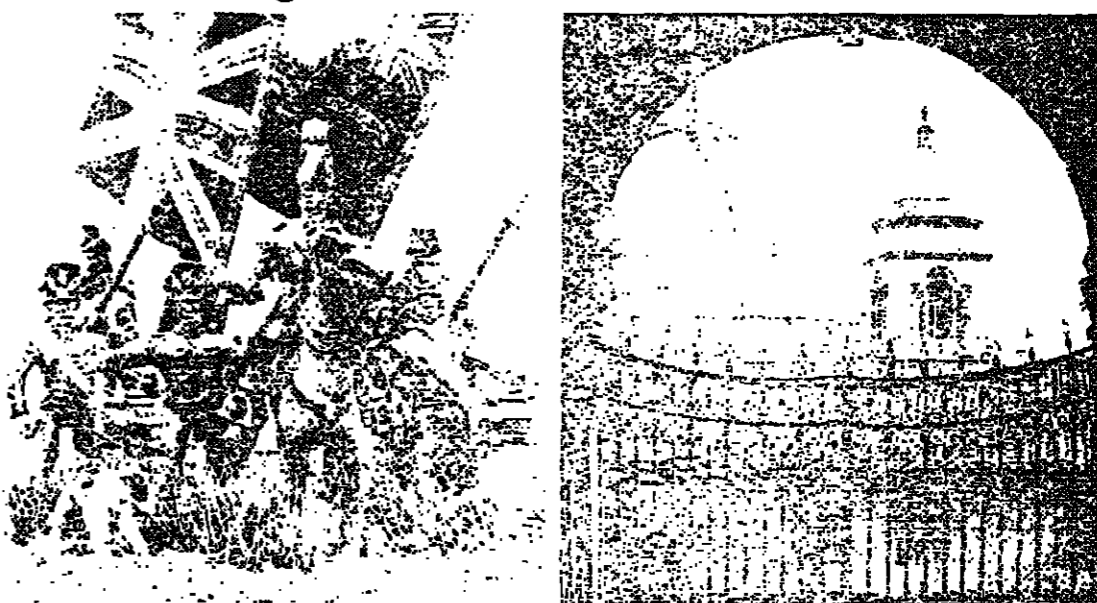
The data suggest that patients who are known to be bad at judging their own breathlessness should be taught to use a home respiratory flow meter so that if they start to deteriorate they can immediately be prescribed lifesaving oxygen, and adequate doses of steroids and anti-asthma inhalants.

Dr Thomas Stuttford
Medical Correspondent

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

War games: How Napoleon won Waterloo on the game-boards of Scarborough



Travel:

Getting back to grass roots in The Gambia; trekking through Tuscany; best-value fares to the antipodes

Paul Jennings

laments the laceration of Liverpool Street station
Roy Strong asks if we have too many Bank Holidays

Family Money:

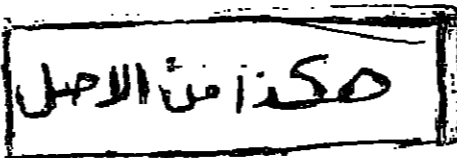
Pensions, can early leavers expect a fair deal soon?

Sport:

Will Yorkshire win their first cricket title for 14 years?

PLUS

All the news from home and abroad; Values: Double-glazing, how to see through the sales talk; Drink: The Californian supergrapes; Collecting postcards; Paperbacks of the month; Bridge and Chess: Critics' choice of the coming week's events in the arts.



THE TIMES DIARY

Chipping in

A young and sprightly Henry Kissinger has been spotted bouncing about Westminster. It is not the former Secretary of State rejuvenated, but his doppelgänger son, David, who has joined George Walden, Conservative MP for Buckingham, as his unpaid research assistant.

Apocalypse now?

Publishers' parties not being what they were, Salman Rushdie launched *Shame*, his successor to *Midnight's Children*, yesterday on the steps of St Martin-in-the-Fields. The author read what he called a suitably apocalyptic passage from the book on its publication day, at the start of a 24-hour read-in by Book Action for Nuclear Disarmament.

Sales patter

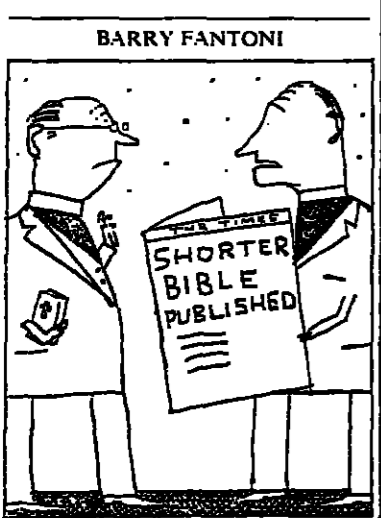
A FHSopkeeper is baffled by a letter received from an A. Ferguson, sales director of Palitoy. It warns him of improvements on something called "the Palitoy goods uplift system".

Lost horizons

Collins' *New World Atlas*, published this month, is a stickler for accuracy, adopting the modern scholarly practice of giving local place names before the accepted English name. This has makings of a new geographical parlour game.

Across the water

Having flipped over to beautiful Alsace while you weren't watching, I have two observations. First, even French restaurants with stars in the Michelin guide now serve wine and water glasses that pong of detergent.



It's to bring it in line with smaller congregations'

Outsider

In the Diary of August 30 I ran a story headed "Wrong type". This was asking for trouble and, sure enough, I typed that William Owens' record for the greatest number of publishers' rejections of a book manuscript was 173.

I have been invited to David Ames's wedding at Westminster Cathedral tomorrow, and the reception afterwards at the Commons. Ames was elected Member of Parliament for Basildon with the biggest swing in the country.

Kiss of life for the inner city

Building societies, as the biggest providers of housing finance, have to some extent been responsible for the desertion and dereliction of inner city housing.

In the absence of a positive policy, local managers have opted to lend money to the buyer of the best status on the house that represents the best security.

There has recently been a change of attitude. Building societies now accept that they have a responsibility to remedy the damage they have helped to create.

Since 1979 we at Abbey National have become involved in all the designated housing action areas. Our receipts have risen in every area that we have gone into in this way.

Unfortunately, deep-grained attitudes, political and otherwise, are impeding the development of building and renovation programmes, for which, with one in four British houses classed as substandard, there is a clear need.

In the past, local authorities have failed to implement inner-city schemes because of lack of money. Now that building societies

Clive Thornton, chief general manager of Abbey National, urges councils to overcome their suspicions of building societies and work together in restoring our urban wasteland

are prepared to put together the necessary legal and financial package, that excuse can no longer be made.

Some authorities remain unconvinced that building societies are genuinely prepared to make a long-term commitment to a rundown area. They suspect the society's motives and fear they will be left high and dry when the society finds a better place to put its money.

Socialist-controlled local authorities often resent the erosion of their role in public sector housing. They tend to cling to derelict land in the hope that they may be able to make use of it eventually.

We expect, and need, the cooperation of

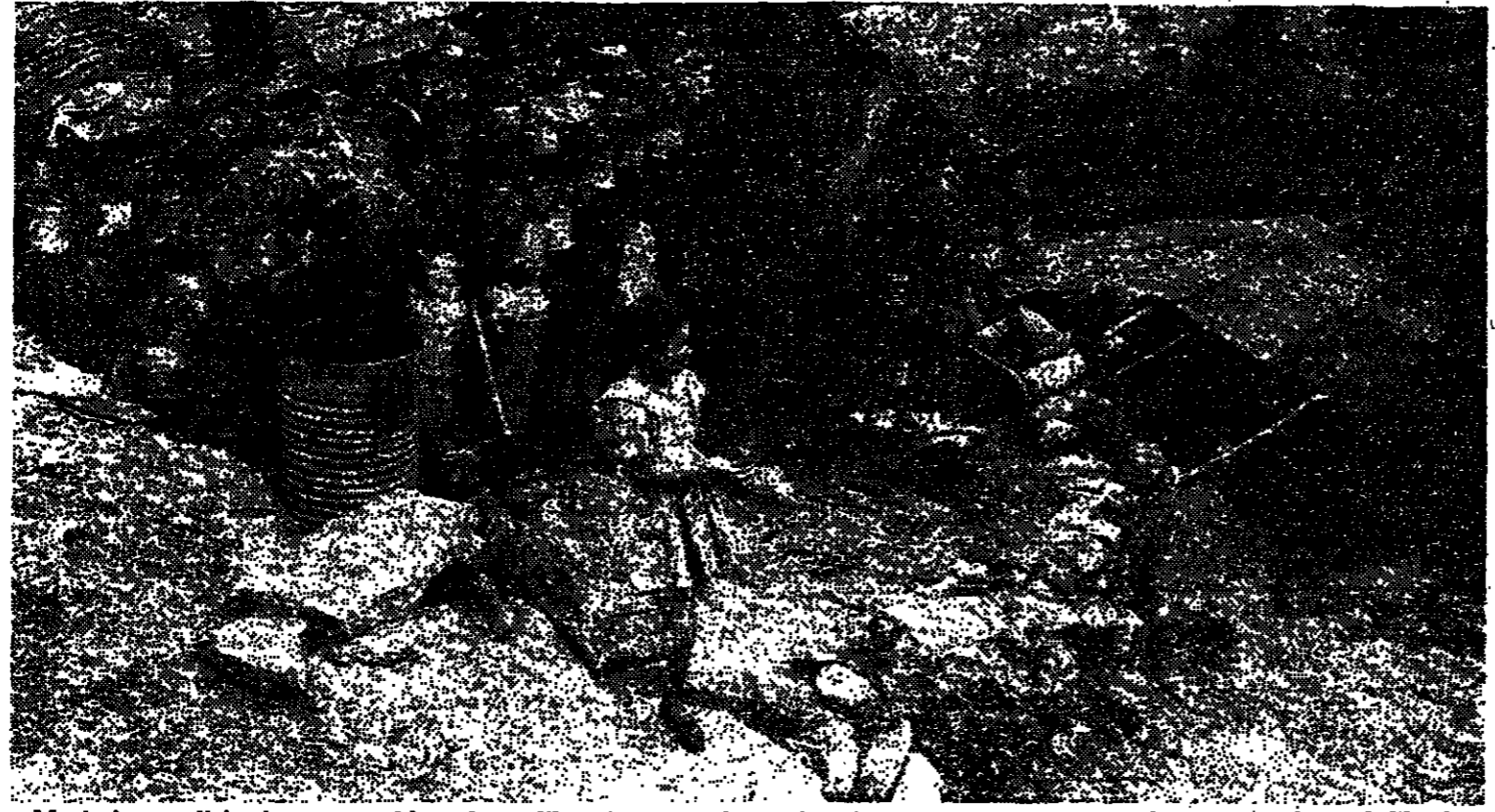
local authorities in telling us what they feel is required. We believe that the local community should derive benefits additional to the provision of the housing itself.

The legal and financial basis of the project as well as the proposed development itself must be acceptable to the local authority. The formation of a trust is often the way to show authorities that we are not in the field of speculation.

Since as a building society we can lend only against the value of real estate security, where a project requires a high degree of renovation of existing properties, we will combine resources with other organizations to ensure that the necessary funds are available.

We are now looking forward to a new era of local authority and building society cooperation. We believe it possible now to create a long-term strategy in which this partnership will prove to be the cornerstone for regenerating city life.

John Carlin on the strains imposed by the economic squeeze



Mexico's poor, living in corrugated from shacks like this, are turning against the government as the austerity measures demanded by the IMF take effect. The race is on between economic recovery and an explosion

Mexico City The President says that the crisis is revitalizing us, but everyone I know here is aware of just one thing - a great weight on their backs.

Antonia Flores, very much the matriarch figure in a small slum community to the north of Mexico City, was not convinced by the more optimistic pronouncements in President Miguel de la Madrid's vibrant state of the nation address on September 1.

A proud, heavy-boned Indian woman with long grey plaits and pendulous earrings, Antonia has lived in the same slum for 50 years. She shares a ramshackle, one-roomed hut with six other people: her daughter, her son-in-law and her four grandchildren.

A railway track passes 10 yards behind their home and, right on the doorstep, there runs a river so polluted with combustible industrial waste that every now and again the water catches fire.

Antonia has always made her living washing other people's clothes. A year ago, before the economic crisis really began to bite, she made 350 pesos (then £3.50) a day. Now, after a 50 per cent price increase in Mexico's staple diet, cornflour tortillas, and a doubling in the price of bread, she struggles to scrape together 150 pesos (now 70p).

Antonia's neighbour, Maria, is 34 but looks 20 years older. She knows that her two boys, four and six years old, are dying. The doctors say that the cause of their illness of malnutrition, a condition aggravated by the appalling hygiene of the open-sewer slum where they live.

Maria's sons are among the 75 per cent of Mexico's 12 million chronically underemployed. Nine months ago he lost his job in a factory, one of the many thousands laid off in manufacturing industry, which is now operating at about 40 per cent of capacity. With unemployment benefits non-existent in Mexico, husband and wife can only watch in despair as their consumptive-looking children literally waste away.

In his state of the nation address, President de la Madrid provided no statistics for malnutrition or underemployment but the word "million" recurred again and again as he announced the figures for oil production, the balance of payments surplus, foreign currency reserves and

World esteem, but can Mexico afford the price?

most important, Mexico's dutiful payment of interest on its vast foreign debt.

Having kept a pledge to the International Monetary Fund to impose savage restrictions on public spending, President de la Madrid proclaimed that Mexico had met its "international obligations" which had had the requisite salutary effect on the nation's financial health.

"Mexico," de la Madrid had said in July, "stands out in this moment, in the economic chaos that pervades the world, for its seriousness, its responsibility and its willingness to fulfil its promises."

On August 23 Mexico punctually paid back \$1,850m it owed to the Bank of International Settlements. Three days later banking bankers in New York restructured \$11,400m due on Mexico's \$83,000m debt.

The applause of the IMF President Jacques de la Rosiere has been echoed in the pages of the *Financial Times*, *The Economist*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the magazine *Eurconomy* which recently voted Mexico's Jesus Silva Herzog "finance minister of the year".

But back home, the government is losing friends. At recent local elections in northern Mexico, two opposition politicians were killed as the country's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) suffered its heaviest ever defeat. Unaccustomed to electoral losses of any kind, the PRI hierarchy, which has ruled Mexico without interruption for the past 54 years, was stunned by its failure to obtain more than 77 per cent of the votes cast in 105 mayoral elections.

The political analysts' explanation for this unprecedented happening has been that, this year, the PRI's local faithful, bitter at the catastrophic fall

in their living standards, were rather less vigorous than usual in gongding traditionally reluctant voters to turn up at the hustings.

Antonia Flores's unquestioned matriarchal status is founded on the fact that she is the PRI representative for the slum community where she lives. As such, it is her responsibility to gather people together for presidential rallies, pro-government demonstrations and, most crucially, for elections.

The implicit reward is always an improved living standard for her and her community. But now, after 40 years with the PRI, Antonia is beginning to respond to the nudges of her embittered neighbour, Mariana, sensing, as she puts it, that her reward will not turn out, after all, to be on this earth.

Antonia is a native of the southern state of Oaxaca, one of the more traditionally rebellious and poor of Mexico's 22 states. In the town of Juchitan, in Oaxaca, two people were recently shot dead and several badly injured as local PRI members tried to force out the local mayor, the leader of a maverick left-wing group which has captured the allegiance of the impoverished locals.

The government has confiscated TV film of the violence in Juchitan as people on both sides arm themselves in readiness for what promises to be an escalation in the killings.

Tense, armed confrontations of this sort, between police-abetted PRI officials and discontented factions, are still all over Mexico's provinces and government officials privately confess that they expect more violence in coming months.

Dr Lorenzo Meyer, a politics lecturer and former visiting Oxford fellow, is convinced that "as a last

resort, once its hold on power is seriously challenged", the PRI will not hesitate to call on "the latent repressive violence" which stalks just under the benign, if authoritarian, surface.

In Mexico City the most obvious indication that austerity is breeding discontent, besides almost daily traffic-clogging demonstrations in that street crime is getting out of control, prompting Congress last week to summon the capital's bewildered police chief for an uncomfortable talking to task.

The Mexican government calculates that the country will get over its economic slump in a year and a half, but this is working on the perhaps optimistic assumption that the international price of oil will hold (Mexico is the world's fourth biggest oil producer), that US interest rates will not rise and that the international economy will recover.

An experienced western diplomat said recently that he considered the optimism currently being voiced in much of the international press over Mexico's economic and political future to be somewhat premature. He said that in the reports he sent back to his government he was "hedging his bets" on forecasts as to Mexico's prospects of remaining, for much longer, the most stable nation in Latin America.

With a frankness totally out of character, President de la Madrid told the French newspaper *Le Monde* last month that he had the impression these days that he was living over a volcano. A few days later, in one of the more emotive moments of his 3½-hour state of the nation speech, the President said that Mexico's economic crisis confronted Mexicans with the challenge of a people living in time of war.

But an American financial analyst in the Mexican capital said that, for the moment, he found the "war" metaphor a little imprecise. "What de la Madrid faces," he said, "is a race. A race between, on the one hand, Mexico's economic recovery, and on the other, the progress of social unrest."

So far the government is pacing itself well. But the road is still long and, if the government should lose the race, then "war" might become a little more than just an image in a presidential speech.

David Watt

No evil intent, just obeying the book

We do not know and shall never know by exactly what process the Russians took their decision to shoot down the South Korean 747 last weekend. As George Walden pointed out on this page on Wednesday, it is in the nature of our relations with the Soviet Union that we are always having to guess.

They are able to do so with fair accuracy (and it is one of the few consolations in Soviet studies) because the system is so strong and so rigid that the variations from "normality" are rare and usually indicate that some new and serious permanent pattern has been clamped upon Russian behaviour.

In the case of the South Korean airliner, there is nothing whatever surprising in what the Russians have done but there is therefore a broad consensus among professional Sovietologists about what probably occurred. The reconstruction goes something like this.

Under the Salt treaties, both the Russians and Americans make regular use of spy planes for verification against cheating, but by an implied gentlemen's agreement, keep out of each other's air space and do their spying from afar. The Russians would not be surprised to detect an American spy plane over the Sea of Japan but would be both surprised and outraged if it violated Soviet air space.

When the Korean aircraft first showed up on Soviet radar screens, heading for Soviet territory, the Russians may quite reasonably have assumed that this was an American spy plane "trying it on" and therefore a high degree of nervousness may have been generated.

As soon as planes were sent up to look at the intruder it would have rapidly become clear in the moonlight that it was a commercial airliner and this information would have been relayed to the ground. Local commanders would have given instructions to shadow the plane while they decided what to do.

The decision finally to shoot down the plane would have been taken at medium/high to high military level. Party and government civilians (including Mr Andropov) would very probably not have been consulted in any case, but would certainly not have been disturbed in the middle of the night for the purpose (European Russia was also in darkness). The main consideration determining such a decision would therefore have been the rules of engagement for the Far Eastern region, laid down in standing orders.

The senior military commander consulted, who may have been as high as the Air Force Commander-in-Chief, would have said to himself, "The standing regulations say 'Shoot'. If I obey the rules of engagement nobody can blame me. I shall have done my duty. If I do not I may be for the chop. So 'Shoot'."

The wider implications of the incident would not have entered into it. When it became apparent next morning to the civilian Soviet leaders what had happened they would no doubt have been appalled. Their entire propaganda position as a peace-loving nation confronted by capitalist warmongers and international rapaciousness would not have entered into it.

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After much agonizing thought and debate, Mr Andropov decided that he was not sufficiently secure in the saddle to shoot the KGB's might have faded but as his former head, to get away with disowning them. It might have been possible, though difficult, to discipline a faction within the Party. The armed forces, to whose backing Andropov ultimately seems to have owed his elevation, were too powerful. He therefore decided to ride out the diplomatic storm. There will be no international inquiry, no more than a perfunctory apology and probably no compensation for the victims.

If this explanation is right it does nothing, of course, to excuse Soviet behaviour or to relieve the Russians of the responsibility for an outrage. It provides a chilling picture of the Soviet system - a cold, unfeeling, compartmentalized and brutal.



Andropov: riding out the diplomatic storm. Reagan: given an excuse to reassert military superiority

Moreover it may mean (though one can argue the opposite) that Andropov will remain in lock to the army and, in view of his age and health, may not be able to break the hold it has on Soviet resources and policy.

On the other hand, the incident reveals no horrors of the Soviet system that we were not already aware of, and if as all but the most conspiratorial Sovietologists apparently surmise, it was not a deliberate act of Soviet policy, then it does not tell us anything whatever about Soviet intentions.

It is equally compatible either with President Reagan's picture of the Soviet Union as an aggressive, expansionist empire of evil or with the European picture of an ultra-cautious, primarily defensive power which certainly needs to be kept in check and challenged when it shows signs of expansionist opportunism, but which it is expedient to do business with and to involve as much as possible in the intercourse of civilized states.

It may be said that the moderation of President Reagan's practical sanctions against the Russians shows that he recognizes the comparative irrelevance of the incident to the wider East-West issues. But I am not so sure that American public opinion or the Soviet leadership will see things in this light. The President's rhetoric has been employed to portray the tragedy as fresh and startling evidence of Soviet aggression and therefore of the need to spend vast sums on defence, especially on the MX missile - and it will probably succeed.

The Russians may conclude that they made a mistake but the nature of the mistake in their eyes will not so much be that they have deeply offended the world at large or that they have risked punishment (which President Reagan has been unable to inflict) as that they have given the President a plausible excuse to do what they are convinced he intended to do anyway - namely to build up his arsenal and to reassert military superiority over them. Either way the damage is serious.

Philip Howard

Scotching errors of history

An important anniversary has escaped the eagle eye of Old Father Time, who reads these interesting little chimes of history from the Information Service on the back page. It is the one thousand, nine hundredth anniversary of the first great failure to civilize the Scots. The history of the British Isles would have been tidier if the Roman invaders had stayed on, and occupied and pacified the Highlands after their victory at Mons Graupian just about this time of year in AD 83. From Bannockburn to Wembley we should have avoided a great deal of blood, and sick, and broken bottles, if the Scots could have been educated rather than just beaten at this early date. It is too late to do anything about it now.

We know about the battle only from the *Agricola* of Tacitus, that magnificent but unreliable historian's biography of his father-in-law. He writes that in the summer of 83, for the second year running, Agricola led his army on campaign north of the Forth. Towards the end of the summer he came upon the slopes of the Graupian Mountain, on ground of their own choosing. Our modern Graupians come from a misreading of Graupius by Renaissance scholars.

For once in their history the Caledonians had stopped fighting each other to meet the common danger, and had mustered more than 30,000 men. The Romans had about 25,000. Tacitus mentions 8,000 provincial infantry and 3,000 cavalry in the front line, with about 2,000 cavalry in reserve, and detachments from two or three legions, who took no part in the battle.

Tacitus gives the conventional set-piece speeches to the armies by their commanding officers before the battle. In his speech the Caledonian leader, Calgacus, utters the first Scot Nat slogan in history: "Robbery, murder, rape, the lying Sassenachs call it their Empire; they create a desolation that it is a waste of time fighting the Scot. It was a lost opportunity. Up the Caledonians! What's like us? Verra few, and they're a' dead, starting on Mons Graupian 19 centuries ago this

Caledonians were defeated 10,000 dead to 360. There are a number of puzzling questions about the battle, which have perplexed scholars for centuries. We must clear them up definitively for the anniversary.

1. The site of the battle. Suggestions passionately advanced have ranged from Culledon to Brechin; the latter is as absurd as my South African friend who listens to the British football news and believes that the name of the club in full is Brechin City Nil. Mons Graupian must be farther north, on the line of the first-century marching camps that stretch to the mouth of the Spey. The most popular modern suggestion of a location is Mount Bennachie, near Inverurie, 32 kilometres north-west of Aberdeen. Do not believe it. The true site is Sillary Ridge, near where the River Isla runs into the Deveron.

2. Those war chariots, in which the Caledonians rampaged up and down between the two armies before the battle. All I can say is that they must have had better suspension than modern cars in that rugged land with granite sticking through the turf, and that those primitive Aberdonians must have had good seats.

3. Why did the Scots stand and fight when they would have done better to carry off retreating into the bogs and heather? Answer: Because the Romans had reached their heartland. They had to make a stand, committing suicide in the process, to protect their homes and families.

4. Why was Agricola not allowed to consolidate his victory and occupy the whole of Britain, instead of being recalled to Rome? Answer: Tacitus asserts that Domitian, the strident Emperor, was jealous of Agricola's military triumphs, and feared a potential rival. I think it more probable that independent military advice from such places as the cavalry club at Rome told him that Agricola's plan of conquest was impossible, and that it was a waste of time fighting the Scot. It was a lost opportunity. Up the Caledonians! What's like us? Verra few, and they're a' dead, starting on Mons Graupian 19 centuries ago this

Martha de la Cal

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BRAZIL AND THE BANKS

The rescheduling of Third World debts seems to have become a continuous activity. No sooner is one set of negotiations completed than another is begun. The plain fact is that the international debt problem, despite many soothing words from central bankers, is still deteriorating. A new, although not unexpected, dimension has been added by the suggestion from Mr Guy Huntrods, a director of Lloyds Bank International, that governments must intervene directly in the present Brazilian rescue attempt.

According to Mr Huntrods, "The public sector must play its part. The numbers are too big for the banking sector to handle on its own." But sheer size is not the only basis for deciding whether government support is appropriate. It is true that Brazil is the world's biggest debtor and that the organization of new loans from hundreds of geographically dispersed banks will prove very difficult. The trouble is that, as soon as banks believe that governments will bail out their most awkward customers, they have no incentive to put further money in, or to press these customers to behave more responsibly. If governments give financial aid to Brazil, they will be expected to give financial aid to nearly all of Latin America and much of Asia and Africa as well.

It has been claimed that, if

governments do not step in now, they will have to step in later, if the banks ended the charade and recognized that their Third World loans were bad, their capital bases would be wiped out. Government money would then have to be injected in order that the banks maintain their traditional operations in the industrial countries. On that argument, immediate action is expedient because it would avoid cost and disturbance at some future date.

The argument may be superficially cogent, but it does not establish a case for government intervention. It was the banks which made the loans in the first place. They did so in the expectation of profit. Such profit would have been for the benefit of shareholders. They now face losses instead and these also should be borne by shareholders.

If banks are to be relieved of commercial risks retrospectively, the character of the advanced market economies will undergo a radical alteration. Responsibility for mistakes will no longer rest with management and shareholders, but with politicians, bureaucrats and, in due course, taxpayers. There must be no dispute that if a bank lends money and loses it, the government does not have an obligation to help.

There may, nevertheless, be a justification for discreet government participation in debt nego-

tations. The ultimate cause of the crisis facing Brazil and its bankers is the gross irresponsibility of the country's financial policies. Last year its budget deficit amounted to over 15 per cent of its national income. Unable any longer to finance this deficit by external borrowing, the Brazilian government had to resort to the printing presses. Inflation, a politically convenient but socially disruptive tax-gatherer, accelerated. It has now reached the intolerable level of 150 per cent.

In these circumstances, bankers cannot realistically expect Brazil to service its debts. But the problem may be transitional. Brazil may be better placed in two or three years' time if the budget deficit has been eliminated. Budgetary restraint is indeed, the International Monetary Fund's central demand in the current negotiations. Western governments must be willing to support the IMF in its task, if necessary by further increases in its capital. This will give Brazil a breathing space to tidy up its financial position and also allow central banking authorities in the advanced countries to prepare for the worst eventuality, that Brazil will still be unable to pay up. Enforced bank mergers and management changes may, unfortunately, be as necessary on this occasion as they have been in previous financial crises.

IRELAND IN TWO PARTS

There was never much doubt about the outcome. The question put to the Irish people was taken to mean, Do you want the present legal ban on abortion to be made safe by an addendum to the constitution? Never mind whether the addition was otiose, the wording incompetent, the effect different from that intended, the procedure objectionable, and the whole thing divisive of the nation. The people had been asked about abortion. The moral majority was roused from its slumbers. And the moral majority in the Republic of Ireland is Catholic and conservative. So that is that.

The lively debate that the referendum stirred up went much wider than the question at issue. It had to, since there is a virtual consensus in that country that the law relating to abortion should be left where it is. There was much introspection about the sort of political society the Republic is or ought to be: should it embody and reflect the outlook of the numerically preponderant culture, part lay part clerical; or should it assume a more liberal ethos and put distance between church and state as is considered appropriate to plural societies?

A headcount gives the answer that has just been returned. The actual movement within Irish society gives a less conclusive answer. During the past fifteen years or so there has been noticeable enlargement of the room occupied by opinion and conduct that diverge from orthodoxy. Perhaps it is better described as a fragmentation of orthodoxy. It is not only a secular phenomenon. There has been a similar movement within the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland. So the relevant political argument is really about the

extent to which the forms and institutions of society should be changed in order to correspond with changes that have actually occurred or are occurring in the character of society.

That is the question that Dr FitzGerald sought to pose last time he was in office when he announced his "constitutional crusade". It is his misfortune, and partly his fault, that the first full engagement of the crusade should have been fought on terrain hopelessly disadvantageous to his cause. The outcome can only weaken his authority. It also makes something of a mockery of his policy towards Northern Ireland.

Meanwhile there are things to report from that part of the island too. Dr Paisley is in touch with a mole who has come up with the spine-chilling information that British and Irish civil servants are thrashing around looking for things to have cross-border cooperation about. This is in fulfilment of the programme agreed between the two prime ministers for the Anglo-Irish inter-governmental council. The rest of us have not been allowed to see the documents so we have only Dr Paisley's word for their tenor, which is, he says, to edge Northern Ireland out of the United Kingdom and into an all-Ireland republic.

One must be cautious of reading it that way. The Unionist imagination in these matters is as Shakespeare described it: "Or in the night, imagining some fear, How easy 's a bush supposed a bear". Particular difficulty is experienced in distinguishing functional cooperation between authorities in two parts of Ireland with distinct and uncompromised sovereignties from arrangements that impair the sovereignty of one part with

a view to having the other assimilate it.

The proposal that Unionists are specially suspicious of is completion of the Anglo-Irish council with a parliamentary tier including an element drawn from the Ulster Assembly. If the quid-pro quo were to be the SDLP's cooperation in the assembly, there would be advantages that Unionists ought to be prepared to examine. One advantage for them would be the far better prospect of a return to provincial government. "Power sharing" is the *ignis fatuus* of Westminster rule in Ulster. But it is not impossible for the political leaders of the two communities to act in common for the common good. Next week a delegation leaves Northern Ireland for the United States to drum up investment for the province. The four main constitutional parties of Northern Ireland are represented on it, two by their leaders - Dr Ian Paisley and Mr John Hume. The initiative owes nothing to Mr Prior and his assembly, which is no doubt why the parties have managed to tolerate each other's presence. It is far removed from anything touching on the constitutional status of Northern Ireland. Still, it shows that Ulster's political leaders do have some common loyalty. That loyalty is to the people and their welfare. It is a foundation upon which to build.

And a more propitious time for constructive politics may be approaching. The Royal Ulster Constabulary is having notable success in bringing terrorists to trial on the evidence of informers. Another crop of delations has just been announced. The impact of these successes is already felt in a reduction of gross terrorist crime.

TECHNOLOGY OF SOCIAL REFORM

When new technology hits an ancient industrial process, the process dies. When new technology assaults an ancient institution like the Civil Service, the institution does not perish. The government of the country must go on. It cannot be put out to international tender. But the impact can be traumatic. Whitehall is on the brink of the most dramatic change in bureaucratic practices since the Asquith administration introduced the first national insurance scheme and, in the words of Winston Churchill, its reforming President of the Board of Trade, brought in "the magic of averages to the aid of the millions".

A conference of policy analysts and administrators at York University this week began to map out some of the consequences. Clearly, bureaucratic processes involving financial transactions, a great deal of information, and frequent variation - like the tax and social security systems - are ripe for computerization. The Inland Revenue's pay-as-you-earn will be automated from the end of 1987. It is a mammoth enterprise embracing 27 million taxpayers, more than one million employers and a national network of collection. It will cost £210 million to instal, but should save £50 million a year when operational.

Equally important, the flexi-

bility of the system will open up the possibility of substantial change in fiscal structure for the first time since the mid 1970s. Sad lessons from past essays into an earlier generation of new technology, like the Department of Transport's Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea, led the planners to insist on a minimum of external disruption if targets were to be met, though there have been over a thousand changes in requirement since 1980. Ministers therefore agreed on a moratorium on tax reform. Four years is a long time in politics. But, as Mr Steve Matheson, director of the PAYE project put it in York, ministers and civil servants could start planning post-1987 policy changes next week if they wished.

By coincidence the target year of the Cabinet's longer-term review of tax and spending happens to be 1986-87. If ministers so decided, new technology and new policy could be harmonized conveniently given careful forethought. There is a snag, though. Social security, the other side of the tax-benefits system (which in any fundamental rejigging of the welfare system would have to be reformed in tandem) will in the mid-1980s be moving into its own great technological breakthrough, which Sir Geoffrey Orton, Second Permanent Secretary at the

Department of Health and Social Security, compares in its complexity with the United States NASA enterprise in putting men into space. The DHSS new technology will not be operational until the mid-1990s. No doubt there will be a moratorium on reform in that field as well. Tack it on to the tax stop and you have, as Mr Michael O'Higgins, an adviser to the Commons Select Committee on Social Services, has noted, a block on reform lasting a quarter of a century.

The DHSS transformation will cost £1.6 billion and affect 50 million personal records. It also carries important access and privacy implications. Will for example, a DHSS client be able to see the VDT screen displaying the data that will determine his or her disbursement? Will new technology tend to inhumanize or dehumanize the 500 local social security offices or will it dehumanize them still further?

The message of the York conference is clear: Civil Service work can no longer be split into material fit for thinkers, doers or technicians. The new model official must be a bit of all three if the new technology is to be harnessed to the full. Beside that, the recent debate about the priority to be afforded policy-making and management pales into obsolescence.

On a twin track to deterrence

From Lord Mayhew
Sir, Though a strong supporter of the twin-track decision, I find your leader of September 5 ("Be firm, be sceptical") too negative.

Yes, the French and British deterrents are indeed conventionally regarded as "strategic" and "independent". But they are in fact markedly shorter in range than the SS20s and the British deterrent, though it can be recalled to independent command, has for years been assigned to Nato and is targeted and deployed by Saceur (Supreme Allied Commander Europe). It is therefore unreasonable to insist that neither force should count at all in the European nuclear balance.

A useful precedent has been set in the Vienna negotiations for a conventional balance. Here, since the arms control talks declared they are not formally "counted in", but a figure of 50,000 has been added to the Nato manpower total for the sake of reaching agreement.

The same common sense should now be shown in Geneva. The twin-track decision has succeeded in squeezing some useful concessions from the Russians, and in terms of the gap between the two sides is now less than 3 per cent of the total US/SU stockpile. The Russians can devastate the world without SS20s and we can devastate them without cruise or Pershing 2s.

We should not let the Korean airline outrage wreck the INF negotiations. It is time for a deal. Yours etc, MAYHEW, House of Lords.

Dispute over Belize

From the Prime Minister of Belize
Sir, There are three facts to remember when referring to the article on Belize by Mr George Walden (August 12) and a letter in *The Times* of August 23.

Belize was never a part of Guatemala. It was a geographic entity within its existing borders at the time Guatemala declared its independence from Spain.

Belize desires a settlement of the unfounded claim without prejudice to its sovereignty and its territorial integrity.

Belize understands, appreciates and thanks the people and Government of the United Kingdom for the British military presence as a factor of security and stability in a turbulent region.

Sincerely, GEORGE PRICE, Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize, Central America, September 1.

Indiana's tax laws

From the Governor of Indiana
Sir, Recently I read the article about US methods of unitary taxation that appeared in the July 1, 1983, issue of your paper. The article listed Indiana as a state which has adopted this method of taxation. This is only partially correct, and I would like to briefly explain Indiana's approach to this issue and how it actually benefits both domestic and foreign corporations.

Indiana law allows our Department of Revenue the discretion to give corporations doing business in our state two options. These corporations may choose either to be taxed on a unitary basis or to be taxed using the familiar allocation method. This method segregates for tax purposes a British corporation's income produced by its Indiana operations from its income produced elsewhere.

The only time the British corporation would not be allowed to exercise its option would be under circumstances where the company intentionally structured its sales in a manner that would artificially minimize or eliminate the subsidiary's Indiana tax liability. Under such circumstances, unitary taxation methods would be applied.

Indiana has recently committed over £120m for purposes of economic development. A portion of these funds has been targeted to the attraction of foreign investment. Indiana has a long-standing history of welcoming foreign investors with open arms. I am confident that Indiana is the best state in the Midwest of our country and one of the best states nationally for foreign companies to conduct their US operations.

In view of this extensive monetary commitment to economic development and our pride in our business climate, I felt it important to clarify the misrepresentation in your newspaper's article.

Sincerely, ROBERT D. ORR, Office of the Governor, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2797, United States.

Church and politics

From the Very Reverend Monsignor George R. Leonard
Sir, Your front page headline, "Hume tells priests to get involved in politics" (September 8) was not supported by the report below it. Although Cardinal Hume was addressing the National Conference of Priests, his plea for greater participation in the life of the national community was, as your report indicated, addressed to Catholics generally. The Cardinal was not discussing the extent to which priests in particular should engage in activities of a political nature.

Your headline perhaps makes the common mistake of identifying the Church with the clergy.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE R. LEONARD, Archbishop's House, Westminster, SW1, September 8.

Unsettled doubts in airliner incident

From Dr L. T. Weaver
Sir, The drastic act of apparently shooting down a Korean airliner should be taken as an indication of the fear the Russians have for the West.

Without wishing to condone their action in any way, faced with invasion of Soviet air space by an unresponsive aircraft set on a course towards a sensitive military area, only a country abnormally scared of the attack could respond in such a morally irresponsible and politically foolish way.

This sort of tragic event is the price we must pay for the extreme military tension that exists between East and West.

Yours sincerely, L. T. WEAVER, 87 Osborne Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, September 3.

From Mr P. D. Arty Hart
Sir, Your back page of September 6 presents questions on the Korean plane disaster. The last question skirts around an essential issue.

We have been given conversations between Soviet pilot(s) and ground control and monitored time reports gathered by the United States of the sequential events.

We are told that Tokyo lost the plane on radar and didn't know its location. But what was the radio of the Korean pilot doing all these two hours of anxiety when he could see danger? Nothing? No distress call? No advice sought? Or was the radio out of order, or is the information-critical - not yet released?

Cannot *The Times* find out, or is the Reagan hysteria unfavourable to such an inquiry and publication? Yours faithfully, P. D. ARTY HART, 37 Belize Court, NW3, September 7.

From the Reverend Claude Riches
Sir, Before we give ourselves up to unrestrained condemnation of the Russians, ought we not to ask ourselves whether we are entirely clear in our own minds what the attitude of British military authorities might be if an Argentinian plane, albeit one having the

appearance of a civilian aircraft, were to approach beyond the exclusion zone of the Falklands and refuse to obey or acknowledge all attempts made to divert it?

Yours faithfully, CLAUDE RICHES, The Rectory, Ashdon, Saffron Walden, Essex, September 7.

From Miss Mary E. Jelley
Sir, Why are not all bona fide passenger-carrying aircraft clearly marked with some conspicuous internationally recognised emblem?

It could be outlined at night with lights. If the Red Cross can do this why not devise something for innocent travellers?

Yours truly, MARY E. JELLEY, The Shepherd's Cottage, Clons, Near Andover, Hampshire, September 7.

From Mr Gerald Fleming
Sir, Would it not be in the urgent interest of safer air travel throughout the world, of historical truth, future peace and good will among men, if the governments of the United States, the USSR and Japan were to agree forthwith - concomitant with minimal security demands - to the simultaneous publication of those parts of existing tapes recording key moments prior to the destruction of the South Korean airliner?

Would not many say that this catastrophe, points up in a very special way man's inhumanity to man in our cold and often dehumanising technical age?

Yours sincerely, GERALD FLEMING, 55 Golders Gardens, NW11.

From Mr Alan H. Cauter
Sir, How can we conduct nuclear disarmament negotiations (other than meaningless ones) with a country that shoots down civil airliners?

Yours faithfully, ALAN H. CAUTER, 6 Portland Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, September 5.

Pricing gas

From Mr Martin E. Simons
Sir, A most important aspect of the British Gas efficiency report, by Deloitte Haskins & Sells, published late August, is that it will force the Department of Energy and the British Gas Corporation to come to an accommodation of their differences which have not been helped by insular attitudes or the whims of successive governments.

In the area of gas pricing one is left with the impression that shorter and longer term needs of industry and of private customers have not been considered. The Department of Energy and the corporation favour high selling prices based on the cost of the most expensive gas - viz Norwegian Frigg field gas. It is of course true that the report states: "We understand that UK sector oil companies require a post-tax return of 8-10 per cent, and that the corporation's 5 per cent return required in the 1978 White Paper "may need reconstruction."

If UK gas prices were to be governed by the marginal cost of supplies, then the Government would have no financial inducement to minimise such costs.

The Deloitte report does not refer to the appropriateness of the corporation's accounting conventions which have led to substantially higher asset upvaluation than has been customary in industry. This in turn has brought massive depreciation charges. As a consequence, the real rate of return for the depression year ended March, 1983 was much higher than the 3.7 per cent published.

Realistic energy pricing is essential for industry, whilst sensible heating costs, which rose 25 per cent per therm in the last financial year, are vital for our ageing population. The Government must take wise economic and social decisions.

Yours faithfully, MARTIN E. SIMONS, 24 Granard Avenue, SW15, August 30.

Straw burning

From Dr M. A. Plint
Sir, The most recent authoritative study of the subject, published by the United States National Academy of Sciences last year, shows conclusively that, if present trends continue, the carbon dioxide content of the earth's atmosphere will double within 50 years.

The effects of this change are still non-proven, but there are strong theoretical reasons for believing that a massive modification to world climate, in the direction of increased temperatures, could result. This could possibly be the environmental problem facing the world by the middle of the next century.

The effect is a marginal one: the rate of carbon release into the atmosphere, primarily the result of

the burning of coal and oil, now outstrips the rate at which vegetation can remove this carbon. Any reduction is important.

The *Farmers Weekly* mentions a figure of five to six million tons of straw burnt each year. This represents the release of perhaps eight million tons of carbon dioxide, some 2 per cent of total emissions.

Two per cent may not sound very much, but it is the excess that counts, and this is the only substantial reduction that could be made, at little expense, by a simple piece of legislation.

This legislation should, I suggest, be put in hand without delay.

Yours faithfully, M. A. PLINT, 8 Watermans Way, Wargrave, Berkshire, September 1.

Peace in Latin America

From the Colombian Ambassador
Sir, It is impossible for me to overlook yesterday's article (September 5), "Colombia's own savage El Salvador", by your correspondent in Bogota, since it does not state the whole truth.

We Colombians are aware of our problems and of our shortcomings and it does not make us feel uncomfortable if these things are discussed and analysed abroad. But it would be preferable if, at the same time, the public were also informed of our efforts to solve and overcome them.

The violence still afflicting some regions hurts us, but we are endeavouring, to the best of our ability and in good faith, to eradicate the causes which might have given rise to the same. Last year, the National Congress approved the most comprehensive amnesty law in our history. President Betancur was not alien to this statute. On the contrary, he supported and encouraged it from the beginning by unequivocal messages and through his ministers.

Furthermore, the Government is carrying out a vast work of economic and social transformation to bring about a reasonable standard of living throughout the land and to eliminate extreme poverty. Political democracy is fully operational and we are anxious to achieve economic and social democracy as well.

The publication of the article to which I refer, emphasizing the tragic occurrence of the Magdalena Medio region, took place at the same time as the signing of the first contracts for a loan of \$100m involving the International Finance Corporation, the Midland Bank, Credit Com-

mercial of France and the Industrial Bank for Developing Countries, of Denmark, to assist private Colombian industrialists to construct a new cement factory, precisely in that Magdalena Medio region.

We 28,500,000 Colombians hope to ensure our own self-sufficient development. We are well aware of the disturbances brought about by 3,000 or 4,000 members of the guerrillas. Nevertheless, we do not give up hope that we might manage to persuade these of the advantages of returning to civil life in order to work with the rest of us within the norms laid down by our basic law, the National Constitution.

All of us, headed by President Betancur, are conscious of the professionalism of our armed forces and of their commitment to the principles of democracy. We rely on them to defend our sovereignty as well as to guarantee the order which will enable the desired transformations to take place and also accelerate them.

All these measures confer moral authority on my country for her President, Dr Betancur, together with his colleagues of Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, to take part in the Contadora Group with the aim of achieving peace in tormented Central America. We do not stand aloof from the sufferings of our fellow Latin Americans and we are certain that their peace is also our peace. That is why we wish to help seek it in a civilized manner, through creative dialogue, without further violence which would precipitate irreversible chaos.

Yours faithfully, AUGUSTO ESPINOSA, Colombian Embassy, 3 Hans Crescent, SW1, September 6.

Alliance in more than a name

From Mr Aubrey Jones
Sir, The decision taken by the SDP's National Committee against joint selection with the Liberals of candidates for the European elections is a significant step towards impeding an eventual merger of the two parties.

A Conservative who, feeling that Mrs Thatcher's Government was betraying all that was best in the Conservative tradition, joined the Liberal Party before the SDP was born but who could equally well have joined the SDP had it been in being, I can only say, "I am saddened."

The tactical argument adduced for the decision is that the SDP must remain open to further defections from Labour. But are potential Labour defectors likely to join a party against which they recently fought in a general election?

Is it not possible that they might be readier to join a party formed from a merger of the Liberals and the SDP but bearing a totally new name?

And what about the growing number of disaffected Conservatives shut out by Mrs Thatcher? They are unlikely to join either the SDP or the Liberals. They might just be prepared to join a party sprung from fusion.

The philosophical justification put forward for continuing separate identities for the Liberals and the SDP is that both are in favour of electoral reform, which would facilitate the appearance of several parties. That is true. But there will be no electoral reform without a change of government. Whether or not that takes place depends on the electorate.

And the electorate not unnatural-ly, thinks in terms of the historical context - Government and Opposition, or Government and alternative Government.

The Liberals and the SDP are united in their hostility to the adversarial nature of the inherited political system. It is doubtful, however, whether the electorate has advanced to that point. How otherwise does one explain the plight of the Liberal Party over the last half century?

There are parts of the SDP's thinking which seem to rest on the assumption of power won - e.g. the regional organisation appropriate to a changed electoral system, less so the one we now have.

Power has first to be attained, and the attainment is likely to be easier with one party than two.

Yours faithfully, AUBREY JONES, 89 North End House, Fitzjames Avenue, W14, September 8.

Wedgwood's service

From Mr Christopher Wade
Sir, I write from the Queen Anne house in Hampstead mentioned in David Hughes's entertaining piece (September 3) about Wedgwood's dinner service for Catherine the Great.

According to Dr George Williamson, who among many other things was art adviser to J. Pierpont Morgan, one of the Wedgwood family visited Leningrad to enquire about the service and was assured that it no longer existed: the explanation was that over the years the Empress had thrown the lot at her servants' heads.

Can recent visitors to the Hermitage, please confirm that the dinner set is still on display? Only one Russian Hampstead picture seems to have survived and we are anxious for more - and for a copy of Dr Williamson's famous catalogue.

Yours etc, CHRISTOPHER WADE, The Hampstead Museum, Burgh House, New End Square, NW3, September 3.

Mr Wesker's paradise

From Mr Robert Muller
Sir, Re Wesker v Levin (feature, August 30), Mr Wesker lives in a theatre playwright's paradise. Most novelists, who probably work even harder than playwrights, are never reviewed at all. Few TV dramatists ever see their work reviewed. (There are no TV drama critics.)

The theatre is given an importance by the press which cannot be justified either by its inherent quality or by readership demand.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT MULLER, 2 Camden Square, NW1.

Iced bunkum

From Mr J. M. Adams
Sir, There is no need for Dr Couper (September 6) to be in doubt about the constituents of his ice cream. He can obtain, free, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, a most helpful booklet, called *Look at the Label*, which gives the meanings of all the "E" numbers.

From my copy, his ice cream contains lecithins, mono and diglycerides of fatty acids, carrageenan, locust bean gum, guar gum, tartrazine, carmoisine or azorubin and copper complexes of chlorophyll and chlorophyllins.

What could be simpler? Yours faithfully, J. M. ADAMS, 6 Austen Road, Guildford, Surrey, September 6.

From Mr Peter Mottley

Sir, Presumably the chocolate-flavoured E in Dr Couper's E322, E471, E (ad nauseam?) stands for "ersatz".

Yours faithfully, PETER MOTTLLEY, 9 Aston Close, Pangbourne, Berkshire.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 8: The Duke of Gloucester visited the Scottish Railway Preservation Society and the Public Library and Rehabilitation Works in Bo'ness this morning.

YORK HOUSE, ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 8: The Duke of Kent, as Patron, was present today at the Civil Service Motoring Association's Diamond Jubilee Luncheon at the House of Commons.

The Queen will open the Aberdeen Curling rink at Dyce and Reclamation Works in Bo'ness this morning.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will give a luncheon at Buckingham Palace on November 2.

The Princess of Wales will visit one of the MacIntyre Communities for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults at Westoning Manor, Bedfordshire, on September 20.

The Princess of Wales will receive a copy of 'Stories for a Prince' in aid of the Royal Institute for the Blind, in London, on October 26.

The Princess of Wales will open the West Indian Family Centre, in Brighton, on October 27.

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The Princess of Wales, Royal Patron of the British Deaf Association, will visit the association's headquarters in Carlisle, Cumbria, on November 17.

The Princess of Wales will visit the Cardiff Community Dance Project on November 21.

The Princess of Wales, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, will open the British Racing School at Snaithwell Road, Newmarket, on November 25.

The Princess of Wales will open the Wantage Adult Training Centre on December 2.

The Princess of Wales will open the Park Lane Fair in aid of the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops on December 6.

The Princess of Wales, Patron of the Welsh National Opera, will attend a performance of 'Carmen' by the Welsh National Opera, at the Dominion Theatre, London, on December 7.

The Princess of Wales, Patron of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, will attend a concert in aid of the fund at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on December 20.

The Princess of Wales, patron, will attend a service at St Margaret Patten followed by a court luncheon at Cutlers' Hall, on October 13.

The Duchess of Gloucester, patron, will attend a National AFASIC Week charity gala concert at Guildhall, on October 13.

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Secrets in stone: The traditional arts of stone carving have survived in northern China, though the products of the carvers and sculptors are now made in state-owned factories such as this, rather than in individual studios for wealthy patrons. The sculptures, depicting mythological figures are made for both domestic and international markets.

Church news

New joint role for Catholic and Anglican commissions

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

For the first time the national commissions of the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches are to be brought into the work of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, in exploring obstacles to unity between the two and how to overcome them.

The International Commission completed its first meeting in Venice on Tuesday, and issued a statement yesterday. The commission said that it had discussed the present state of relations in many different parts of the world - its own membership encompasses 12 nationalities - and found that in most cases 'regular cooperation is now taken-for-granted'.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C. Cole and Miss L. Ross
The engagement is announced between Giles, eldest son of Sir Colin and Lady Cole, of Holly House, Burstow, Surrey, and Lynne, only daughter of Mr Charles Ross, of Camden Square, NW1, and Mrs Elizabeth Ross, of Sussex Street, SW1.

Birthdays today

Mr R. B. Adams, 62; Mr Noel Barber, 74; Miss Pauline Baynes, 61; Mr John Curry, 34; Sir Charles Fleming, 67; Sir John Gorton, CH, 72; Mr Robin Hymans, 52; Sir Emile Littler, 80; Sir Peter Macadam, 62; Sir Anthony Parsons, 61; the Rev Professor N. W. Porteous, 85; Mr Richard Sharpe, 45; Dr the Hon Shirley Sumner, 52; Miss Margaret Tyzack, 52; Mr David Versey, 70; Mr Justice Walton, 68.

Meeting

Chester and District Chamber of Trade
The Hon Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Employment, was guest of honour and principal speaker at a meeting organized by the Chester and District Chamber of Trade held at the Chester Grosvenor Hotel last night. Mr Tony Claude Crimes, president of the chamber, was in the chair and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr Richard Agers-Harris.

Cranwell graduations

Air Vice-Marshal A. G. Skingley, Air Officer Commanding and Commandant Royal Air Force Staff College Cranwell, was the reviewing officer when 112 officers of No 70 initial officer training course graduated from the RAF College Cranwell yesterday. The Flying Training School, Cranwell, provided the Bygones and music was by the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment.

Meeting

Chester and District Chamber of Trade
The Hon Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Employment, was guest of honour and principal speaker at a meeting organized by the Chester and District Chamber of Trade held at the Chester Grosvenor Hotel last night. Mr Tony Claude Crimes, president of the chamber, was in the chair and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr Richard Agers-Harris.

Latest appointments

Mr Cynllys (Kenneth) James to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States in succession to Sir Crispin Tickell, who will be taking up a further Diplomatic Service appointment in London.

Anthony Harrell to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Nepal in succession to Mr J. B. Benson, who will be retiring.

Miss Ann Spokes, recently chairman of the social services committee of the Association of County Councils, to be chairman of Age Concern England, in succession to Professor Olive Stevenson.



Miss Ann Spokes

King William's College, Isle of Man

Autumn term begins today. C. D. Moore continues as head of school. The Most Rev Trevor Huddleston will reach the island on September 24 and founder's day is on October 26 at which the guest of honour will be Mr Cliff Morgan. BBC Television's 'Mastermind' will be recorded in the school on September 16. Term ends on December 12.

Charterhouse

Oration Quarter begins today. R. A. Ford is head of school and K. Frearson is captain of football. Exeat is from October 26 to November 2 and the Quarter ends on Wednesday, December 14. The Founder's Day dinner will be on Wednesday, December 7.

St Edmund's School, Canterbury

Michaelmas Term begins today. Paul Mankey (Warneford) is captain of school; David Birks (Wagner) is captain of football. The Old Boys' football matches will be played on September 17 and the St Edmund's Society dinner will be held in London on November 11. Robin Tyson is cathedral head chorister; the Old Choristers' Association dinner will be held on October 8. The junior school will perform 'The Wizard of Oz' on November 24, 25, 26. The school carol service will be held in Canterbury Cathedral on December 16 and term ends on December 18.

Oakham School

Winter Term will begin on Sunday, September 11. There will be 956 pupils in the school, 520 boys and 436 girls. The head boy is James Wrenner; the head girl is Gillian England. The half-term exam is from Saturday, October 29 to Sunday, November 6. The term ends on Sunday, December 18.

Colfe's School

Autumn Term began on September 7 and ends on December 20. Half term is October 24-29, when Mr V. S. Anthony returns as headmaster. Michael Davies is school captain. The 1983 appeal will be launched at a gala concert at Fairfield Halls on September 29. Lord Miles will be the guest speaker at the 331st anniversary governors' visitation on October 21. The Old Colfeans' Reunion dinner will be at Colfe's on November 18. 'At You Like It' will be presented on December 7, 9 and 10.

Wilson's School

Michaelmas Term begins today and ends on December 16. Lieutenant Colonel W. R. Bowden has been re-elected 249th governor and Major-General H. A. J. Sturge as vice-chairman. D. Maclean is captain of school. Fourth's day service will be held on September 29 at Christ Church, Sutton, when the Bishop of Southwark will preach the foundation sermon. Speech day will take place on November 14, when Business Young will distribute the prizes.

Wycliffe College

Boards return this evening term ends on December 17. Jeremy D. Kemp is head boy; Helen C. Mariya is head girl. The senior school has increased to 349 pupils, of whom 64 are sixth form girls. The school society gives its inaugural concert on November 27. (OW dinner) will be in Porthcawl (September 23), London (November 11), Bristol (November 25), and after the DW rugby match (December 10).

Mariages

Mr R. A. C. Viggers and Mrs J. A. Messey
The marriage took place yesterday at Cheltenham, and Sarah Frances, elder daughter of Colonel and Mrs Richard Viggers, of Brill, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Judith Messey, only daughter of the late Mr John Nowell Kendall, and of Mrs Kendall, of Cheltenham. The Rev C. E. Leighton Thomson officiated, assisted by Dom Fabian Cowper, O.S.B.

Mariages

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr John Kendall, was attended by Miss Jocelyn Galworthy. Mr Martin Viggers was best man.

Mariages

A reception was held at Claridge's Hotel and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mariages

The marriage took place on Saturday, September 3, in London, between Mr Jeremy Hunt, younger son of the late Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Hunt, of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and Mrs Joan Long of Mijas, Spain, and Mrs Claudia Charman Bullough, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs John Bullough.

Latest wills

£1m estate
Lady Sherborne, of Aldworth, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, wife of the seventh Baron Sherborne, left estate valued at £1,147,592 net.

£5,000 Bond winners

Table listing names and amounts of £5,000 bond winners.



In party mood: Mr and Mrs Andrew Peacock at a Melbourne reception yesterday. Mr Peacock is leader of the Australian opposition Liberal Party.

Computerized scanner brings pictures from deep inside the brain

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A remarkable picture on the cover of today's issue of Nature shows a cross-section of the brain of a conscious person. The ability to take pictures of structures deep within the brain is not in itself unique; although it is not an easy thing to do. It has been made possible by the development of the computerized tomographic (CT) X-ray scanner and the more recent nuclear magnetic resonance (NMRI) scanner.

Despite its importance in the regulation of movement and mood, it has not been possible for doctors to visualize just exactly how and where it is being used in the brain, and how frequently. The report in Nature, by Dr E. S. Garnett, Dr G. Firman and Dr C. Nabuzita, of the McMaster University Medical Centre, Hamilton, Ontario, describes a way of revealing the pathways in the brain via which dopamine conveys its chemical messages.

phenylalanine (more commonly known as L-dopa). The chosen tracer emits a positron (a positive electron). Three hours after injection with the labelled L-dopa, in three normal male volunteers on the laboratory staff, a picture was constructed of the parts of the frontal, mid and rear parts of the brain in which dopamine emitting positrons was concentrated.

best known as defences against invading viruses, bacteria and other micro-organisms. The fundamental discovery of the Harvard team was that the bundles of nerve fibres contain something that was chemically distinct from normal fibres to which the immune system would react. The next step is to use that knowledge to uncover the detailed biochemistry of the tangles, and perhaps thereby understand the mechanism which causes them to form.

OBITUARY GENERAL IBRAHIM ABOUD Former Prime Minister of the Sudan

General Ibrahim Aboud, who became Prime Minister of the Sudan in 1958 by leading a coup d'etat against the existing parliamentary regime and was himself ousted in a further coup d'etat in 1964, died on September 8 in Khartoum at the age of 82. Born on October 26, 1901, he was educated at Gordon College, Khartoum and at the Khartoum Military College, whence he entered the Sudan Defence Force. With it he saw service in the Eritrea campaign and with the 8th Army in the Second World War, and in 1955 he became Commander of the Sudanese Army.

PROF ALAN STUART

Professor Alan Stuart, who was Professor of Geology in the University of Exeter from 1957 to 1959 died on August 27 aged 89. He had previously from 1947, been Independent Head of the Department of Geology at the University College of the South West, as Exeter University was, before receiving its charter as the University of Exeter. Stuart was born on April 25, 1894 and educated at Gateshead Secondary School and Armstrong College (now the University of Newcastle). He was successively Assistant Lecturer and First Lecturer in Geology at Swansea University from 1921 to 1947 when he went to Exeter.

THE REV E. G. LEE

The Rev E. George Lee, Unitarian Minister and Editor of the Inquirer from 1959 to 1962 died in Exeter on September 8. He was made Professor Emeritus of Exeter University on his retirement. He married, in 1921, Ruth May Huggill. They had one son and two daughters.

Falkland ponies

Ten Exmoor ponies are to be exported to the Falkland Islands to replace ponies killed during the fighting last year.

Science report

Antonie Magne formerly world cycling champion, died in Arracón, France, on September 8. He was 79. Magne won the Tour de France in 1931 and in 1934 and was world professional road-race champion at Berné in 1936. After the Second World War he became director of the 'Mecier' racing team, retiring in 1970.

The Royal Air Force

The middle and late years of this decade will constitute one of the great pivotal periods in the history of the Royal Air Force. Last year it ceased to operate heavy strategic bombers, though a few of the V-bomber force, which entered service in the 1950s to carry Britain's independent deterrent, still linger on in other roles. And now a series of developments are in train which will update the RAF - a service still largely based on 1950s and 1960s technology - so as to meet the threats of the 1980s and 1990s.

These developments include:

- The arrival in service in both Britain and West Germany of the Tornado GR-1 strike/interdictor aircraft. The first squadrons of these aircraft are already operating.
- From about 1985/86 the arrival of the F2 air defence version of the Tornado.
- The ground-based systems for the defence of British airspace - radar, command and control and communications systems - are being substantially renewed and these should be operational during 1986.
- The introduction of the Nimrod Airborne Early Warning

aircraft, which will operate in conjunction with Nato's AWACS and with the ground radars. The combination of these three will mean that the radar coverage of the air space around the United Kingdom, to a distance of more than 1,000 miles, will be very greatly improved.

- Partly as a result of the lessons learnt in the Falklands conflict, the RAF's capacity for in-flight refuelling is being very greatly extended. This facility was already being enlarged before the Falklands crisis by the conversion of VC-10s to tankers, but under the pressure of events Vulcan bombers and Hercules transports were also rapidly converted, and since then the RAF has bought six TriStars, also to serve as tankers.
- The Tornado strike/interdictor aircraft are recognized as being at present inadequately armed. But from about 1986 they will be equipped with two new and very advanced weapons: the JP-233 system for destroying enemy runways, and the British Aerospace/Marconi Alirum anti-radar missiles.

In the 1960s and 1970s the RAF was in the doldrums, constrained by inadequate resources and by changing assess-

ments of what its role should be. Throughout this period it was rationalizing its structure, a process which continues today with a merger imminent of No 1 Group, based at Bawtry, with No 38 Group, based at Upavon.

This process has seen the disappearance of the most famous commands in the history of the service, Fighter Command, Bomber Command, Coastal Command and many others have all disappeared. Today there are just three commands: Strike Command, Support Command and RAF Germany.

By the end of this year Strike, the dominant command, will have been reorganized into only three UK-based groups: No 1 covering strike and air transport and offensive support operations, No 11 handling air defence, and No 18 covering maritime operations plus a headquarters operation in Cyprus.

Developments of this sort are reflected in the RAF's claim to be one of the most efficient air forces in the world, with one of the lowest manpower-to-aircraft ratios anywhere, and with a smaller proportion of the very highest ranks than either the Army or the Royal Navy.



A Tornado of 27 Squadron in a bomb-proof hangar at RAF Marham, Norfolk

Rodney Cowton, The Times Defence Correspondent, talks to Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, Chief of the Air Staff

Sir Keith, how do you see the state of the Royal Air Force today, and its capability to meet the needs of the future?

Sir Keith Williamson: I count myself very fortunate to take over as Chief of the Air Staff at the particular time I did because it is the very time that there is coming to fruition the largest re-equipment programme that the RAF has been involved in during my time in the air force, far perhaps the rapid post-Korean War expansion in the early 1950s when the Hunters and Swifts came in.

The present programme, with the Tornado at its centre, is providing us with a giant leap forward in our capability, not, I might say, before time because the aircraft that the Tornado is replacing are old and certainly obsolescent and we needed something to take us into the 1980s and 1990s but that is now being done.

Tornado, the Airborne Early Warning Nimrod and the improved UK Air Defence Ground Environment all mean that our operational capability is as high as

I have known it, and this has coincided with an improvement in the morale of the people in the Service.

We have come up now a long way from what I regarded as a slough of depression that we were in in the mid-70s when there is no gainsaying that morale in all three Services was pretty low as a result of the 1974 defence review, and the poor pay and conditions in the Services existing at that time.

We had people queuing up to leave the Service, and we were actually having to stop them from going, and so we had a lot of reluctant officers and senior NCOs. We have come a long way since those days.

It would be surprising if we had not because there are three million unemployed in this country and we can be fairly choosy at the recruiting counter. And this has also had its effect on the people we have got in the Service, so that we can retain them. So I think both morale and professional competence are much higher than they have been for a long time.

It is an excellent coincidence that new equipment is coming in at a time when the quality of our personnel is very high and the morale of those people is very high. So I think the RAF at the moment is in a very good shape indeed.

What general conclusions relating to the RAF would you draw from the Falklands conflict?

Sir Keith: I don't think there are any new lessons that we have extracted from the Falklands operation, but there are an enormous number of old lessons that have been re-emphasized and confirmed.

Certainly the experience has made us shift the emphasis on to in-flight refuelling capability, both in terms of having tankers to give fuel and expanding the capability of the majority of our aircraft to receive it. All our front-line fixed-wing aircraft for the future will have a capability to take on fuel.

The Falklands experience, combined I might say, with the experience of the Israeli air force in the Bekaa Valley, has, of course, also underlined what we

knew to be some of the shortcomings with our older aircraft - that we had inadequate electronic warfare and electronic counter-measures capability, and that we had inadequate chaff dispenser and decoy capability.

These are being rectified perhaps more quickly than they would have been if we had not had the Falklands experience, although they always appeared on our priority list. We have known about the deficiency but we have not had the money to fill the gap. We are now making sure it is patched in time.

But of course it is a complex business. It so happens that because we now have the airframes in the Tornado we are able to concentrate on the protective measures.

Until the Tornado came into service most of our energies and nearly all our money was concentrated on getting the Tornado into the air. But the John Nott defence review of 1981 in my view quite rightly laid emphasis on the need for improved weapons fits, and that was confirmed in the Falklands war. Many of the measures we are now taking were well in hand before the Falklands crisis.

For example, the JP-233 airfield denial weapon which has now been ordered in substantial numbers has been in the process of development for quite a long time. The Falklands experience

just underlined the importance of it and perhaps made the formal procuring of it that much easier.

How stretched is the RAF as a result of its deployment in the Falklands?

Sir Keith: Clearly when one moves resources that have been procured for the Nato role to another role it can only be done to the detriment of our ability to meet the Nato commitments. But having said that, we are taking steps to replace the equipment and people that are stationed in the Falklands, and by next year, for instance, we shall have the buy of the Phantom F-4Js from the United States navy replacing those aircraft that are down in the Falklands, and they will be deployed in the defence of the UK.



Sir Keith Williamson: "Operational capability is as high as I have known it"

We are doing the same with additional buys of Rapier and helicopters, so in the long run the Falklands will not be a great burden to carry.

Just how important is the enhanced capability for in-flight refuelling going to be, not only in the context of the Falklands, but more generally in relation to the RAF's Nato commitments?

Sir Keith: The TriStars were bought really on the Falklands bill because of the complexity of organizing the Falklands air support, particularly with the relatively small fuel carriers like the Victor and the VC-10. But although they were bought for the Falklands commitment, they clearly have a tremendous capability to be used within the Nato scene and any other areas of activity. So it is a very useful enhancement of our capability.

In the context of a war in North Europe, would not air tankers be so vulnerable to attack as to quite drastically reduce their value?

Sir Keith: If you look at a map of the Warsaw Pact area you can devise in-flight refuelling brackets that would provide, for example, Tornado with a substantial amount of fuel in benign areas, at height, so that they could for instance attack airfields in the Kola Peninsula or penetrate through to Poland and western Russia.

And we, I think, demonstrated this capability by sending a Tornado from Honington in Suffolk to simulate an attack on Akrotiri in Cyprus and then return... It is a complex operation and it will require you to be able to operate your tankers with some confidence in areas which we do regard as benign, but there are limits to the range of Soviet fighters.

The air defences of the United Kingdom have been very weak for many years. How do you see the position now?

Sir Keith: What we are doing is raising our air defence capability from the very low level that was established after the 1957 defence review, when it was required only to meet the trip-wire threat. We have known ever since that we have not had enough fighters in this country. We have done a great deal within the very limited resources available to us to improve the number available. We have gone up from 60 Lightnings in the mid-1960s and we will have by the end of 1983 well over 120 air defence aircraft in the United Kingdom and West Germany. That does not include the aircraft we have in the Falklands, and we will also have the missile-carrying Hawks.

A lot of money is being spent on improving the ground facilities associated with the air defence of the UK. How big an advance will this represent?

Sir Keith: It is very considerable indeed... The sensors themselves will be very much more capable, much more resistant to electronic-counter measures. The command and control and communications system which will make use of the information the radars provide will be fast and flexible with elements of redundancy which will make sure that it cannot be taken out. So it is going to put us in a whole new ball game in the air defence business...

As a fighter pilot I am excited because I have known the shortcomings of our existing ground environment, although I don't want to sell that short. Our present radars are jolly good in peace-time. They are very well designed, but they are very static and very vulnerable. They are not backed by a fast digital data-link, and so there are many disadvantages to them, and we have been conscious of these for a very long time.

It is therefore very exciting to be reaching a situation where improvements are incorporated that we have been talking about to my knowledge for 20 years. The fact that it is coming in at the same time as the Nimrod Airborne Early Warning aircraft and the Tornado air defence variant means that really the air defence of the UK is going to be very much better based than it has been at any time in peace-time.

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ROYAL AIR FORCE

THE AIRCRAFT

Tornado follows the terrain

The Royal Air Force operates 30 different types of aircraft, both fixed and rotary-wing, but one of them, the Tornado bomber, is taking up a major proportion of the technical time and skill of the Service as it becomes operational in increasing numbers.

A complex aircraft with a variable-geometry wing and advanced electronics which enable it, among other things, to follow the terrain automatically to its target in the worst weather, the Tornado has been ordered in two main versions by the RAF. Some 70 of the GR.1 strike version, and

30 of the two-seat trainer, of 220 on order have entered service, and the first of 165 F2 interceptors will begin to go to the squadrons in 1985.

The Tornado, built jointly by the aerospace industries of Britain, West Germany, and Italy, has already taken over as Britain's main airborne nuclear deterrent, replacing the Vulcan V-bombers, now withdrawn from service, and are in future to be based in West Germany, superseding Buccaneers and Jaguars. F2s have been developed largely for the air defence of Great Britain, and are

to replace two of the four Phantom squadrons and the two Lightning squadrons which carry out that task today.

The policy of maintaining the Falklands as a fortress is the other factor which is placing intense pressure on the RAF inventory. Not only does the service maintain the long supply bridge between Britain and the islands, by way of Ascension, necessitating an intensive refuelling operation on the way, but it maintains a squadron of Phantoms, and two helicopter squadrons in the

Falklands, plus anti-aircraft Rapier missile batteries. To make up for the loss of the Phantom squadron from the European scene, the RAF is buying 15 former United States Navy aircraft of this type for £33m.

A continuing part in Nato is played by the RAF with its Harrier force, of which there is a further 60 on order, due to begin arriving with the squadrons in 1986, Jaguars, Buccaneers and Phantoms. The debate on a replacement for all four types continues, with a vociferous lobby in favour of a second-generation Harrier which would combine vertical/short take-off and landing with supersonic flight. A significant step towards a successor for the more conventional types was the announcement at this year's Paris Air Show that the British Government has signed a contract with British Aerospace for the development and construction of a demonstrator fighter for the 1990s. The single proto-type will be based on BAE's plans for an agile combat aircraft incorporating a great deal of new technology, including composite materials, and with electrically-signalled controls replacing the traditional rods and wires.

In-flight refuelling is becoming an increasingly important role for the RAF, and the service has added considerably to its capability in this sector in recent months.

During the Falklands conflict in the summer of 1982, the tanker fleet of Victor K2s was hastily backed up by the conversion of 24 of 60 Hercules transports, six as tankers, and 16 as receivers. Six Vulcans are also fulfilling the tanker role, and in this year's defence White Paper it was announced that six Lockheed TriStar wide-bodied airliners were to be bought from British Airways for conversion to tankers, and that four of them would be given an additional freighter capability.

In July this year, the first of nine ex-airline VC-10s converted to in-flight refuellers was rolled out at the British Aerospace factory at Filton, Bristol, and a study is continuing of the possible conversion of further aircraft of this type to form a second squadron. The tanker fleet will be used not only to keep aircraft flying over long distances, as in the Falklands operation, but to enhance the duration of fighters on combat air patrol.

Maritime reconnaissance and search and rescue duties are carried out by the RAF with Nimrod SR.2s, and airborne early warning by a fleet of six ageing Shackletons. These are to be phased out as the RAF's new fleet of 11 Nimrod AEW-3s come into service. This version of the Nimrod will be packed with the most advanced radars and electronics enabling its crew to "see" long distances over the horizon

and to give advance warning of any incoming enemy threat.

These are the sharp-end/fixed-wing aircraft of the RAF, although they would be supplemented in time of war by 90 Hawk trainers fitted with Sidewinder air-to-air missiles. The Sidewinder continues to be one of the RAF's main weapons, together with the Sparrow, and its improved Skyflash version, to be carried by the Tornado air-defence version, and Phantoms. Within the past few weeks, the Government has placed a £300m fixed price

contract for the British Aerospace Dynamics Alarm anti-radar missile to be fitted initially to Tornado and Buccaneer aircraft, and later to the Hawk, Harrier, and Sea Harrier. Alarm was preferred over an American missile, the Texas Instruments AGM-88 Harm.

The main adversaries in time of conflict would be the latest aircraft types developed by the Soviet Union, the Backfire, Fencer, Flogger and Foxbat, in Nato code, some 800 of which are produced each year, according to



On the ground and in the cockpit: Tornado crews of 27 Squadron



Western defence sources.

The Tupolev Tu-22M Backfire B, in service with the Soviet long-range air force and naval air force, is the largest variable-geometry aircraft in operational service in the world, with a performance of twice the speed of sound at high altitude. It carries the AS-4/AS-6 stand-off missile, which has a range of 250 miles, and the aircraft's unrefuelled range is 4,500 miles. The Sukhoi Su-24 Fencer is also a swing-wing aircraft developed as a fighter-bomber for ground attack. It, too,

has a Mach 2 performance at altitude, and it can carry a weapons load of 10,000lb.

The Mikoyan MiG-23/27 Flogger, also swing-wing, is a multi-role combat aircraft and has demonstrated its ability to track and engage with radar targets flying below its own altitude. Foxbat - the MiG-25 - is a single-seat, long-range interceptor, with a dash performance of three times the speed of sound, and a ceiling of 100,000ft.

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AIR DEFENCE

Developing non-nuclear deterrence

One of the weakest areas in Britain's military posture since the mid-1960s has been in the provision of air defence.

The trouble began in 1957 when the defence review foresaw air defence switching from manned aircraft to missiles. The existing P1 supersonic interceptor project was to be allowed to go ahead (and as the Lightning it became one of the mainstays of the RAF), but no further projects for new fighters would be authorized.

In the next 10 years or so, the number of fighter squadrons fell from 55, including auxiliary squadrons, to five. But then came a change in Nato doctrine from the policy of massive nuclear retaliation to one of flexible response, and with it came the perception that effective air defences were necessary, and that Britain did not possess them. That state of affairs continues, but a radical improvement is in prospect during the second half of this decade.

Although Bloodhound and Rapier missiles provide an important element of ground defence against air attack, manned aircraft will be at the centre of improved capability, notwithstanding the expectations of the 1957 White Paper.

Of 385 Panavia Tornado aircraft on order for the RAF, 165 will be in the F2 version for air

defence, and these will start to enter squadron service about 1985/86. With their very advanced Marconi radars they are expected to be able to dominate very large areas of air space.

These Tornados will be backed by two squadrons of Phantoms, which will be retained in service for the time being, instead of all aircraft of this class being phased out. They will also be supported by Hawks built by British Aerospace. The Hawk is primarily an advanced trainer, but about 70 of them are to be equipped with Sidewinder missiles, which will enable them to play a secondary role in air defence.

The air defence Tornados will be armed with Sidewinder Aim 9L and Sky Flash missiles, and these are seen as being adequate to meet needs up to about the end of the decade. However, already advanced new medium and short-range air-to-air missiles are being developed for future armament for the 1990s.

The arrival in service of the air defence Tornado will roughly coincide with the advent of another important upgrading of the RAF's capability in the form of new ground radars and command, control and communications systems. This programme is known by one of the less euphonious acronyms in which the services rejoice: UKADGE, which stands for United Kingdom

Air Defence Ground Environment.

Under this programme, Britain's existing radar stations, which are large, fixed and vulnerable to both physical attack and to electronic warfare, will be replaced by 12 transportable 3-D radars which will be much less vulnerable.

The new radars are to be supplied by Plessey and Marconi, and these companies have linked with Hughes Aircraft Company of California to form UKADGE Systems Limited (UKSL) which will provide command and control systems linking the whole network of radars, control centres and operational bases.

When operational, in about 1986, the new set-up will render visible all air activity in any direction within 1,000 miles of the United Kingdom, and will be able to analyse vast amounts of information and respond to it with great speed and flexibility.

The biggest uncertainty confronting the RAF is whether it will have a new agile fighter by the middle 1990s. The service is in no doubt about its need for such an aircraft, and indeed it originally said it was needed by 1988, though an in-service date of 1993 is now contemplated.

The point at issue is that although the Tornado in both its strike interception and air defence

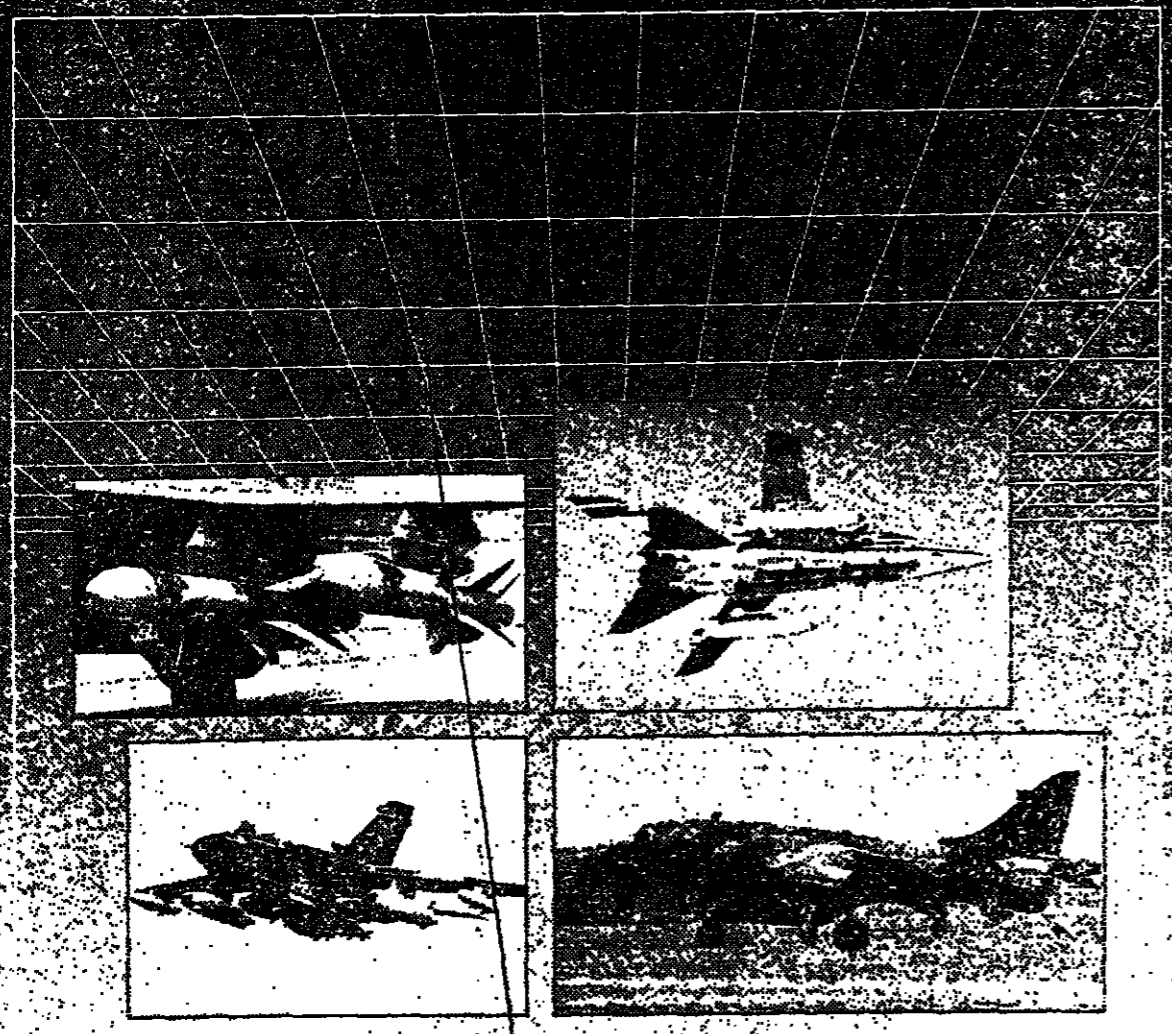
versions is regarded as an excellent aircraft it was not designed to be highly agile or to be able to mix-it with aircraft that are for ground support.

The government has signed a contract with British Aerospace to produce a technology demonstrator aircraft which is expected to fly in 1986. At the same time, British Aerospace is involved in negotiations with German, French and Italian interests to mount a multinational programme for an agile combat aircraft.

The uncertainty arises because the Government has so far refused to commit itself to the principle of acquiring a new agile fighter, and specifically has not committed itself to the British Aerospace project beyond the building of the technology demonstrator.

Two factors are pulling in opposite directions. British Aerospace knows that it will require a programme of providing the RAF with agile aircraft in the early 1990s, to offset the completion of the Tornado programme; on the other hand there is some dispute about the need for such an aircraft, and some doubt whether the defence budget in the early 1990s will be able to bear the cost of such a project.

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TRANSPORT

Vital workhorses behind the thoroughbreds

Behind the glamour of the front-line strike and fighter squadrons, behind the headline-catching exploits of coastal rescue Wessex and Sea King helicopters, lies the anonymous world of the RAF's workhorses of the air.

The Service operates the equivalent of a medium-sized airline from its bases at Lyneham and Brize Norton, with 13 BAe VC 10 airliners carrying servicemen and their families all over the world, and 50 Lockheed Hercules engaged on tasks ranging from in-flight refuelling to carrying stores and dropping paratroops. Thirty of the Hercules are being "stretched" into the longer-body C-3 version so that they can carry bigger loads.

In addition to the two serving with the Royal flight, the RAF has a small fleet of Andovers - essentially the BAe HS 748 airliner - which it uses as transports and for the calibration of ground electronics aids.

Several aircraft types which many would imagine went out of service a long time ago are still operated by the RAF. They include the Canberra (entered service, 1951), the Hunter (1954), the Devons (1948), and the Pembroke (1953).

A number of versions of the Canberra continue to be used, including the photographic reconnaissance PR.9, and the T.17 electronics warfare aircraft which tests Britain's air defences by cluttering the radars and issuing false commands to fighters.

About 60 Humber remain on the inventory, with their main role that of training. Devons are used as communications aircraft, operating mainly from RAF Northolt, London, while the Pembroke do a similar task based in Germany. The RAF has announced that it is to buy four BAe 125 executive jets, known in the Service as Dominies, and these are expected to be the first of a number which will eventually replace the Devons and Pembroke.

The new 125s will be the 700 version, with American Garrett TFE 731 engines, while a small fleet of 125s already operating from Northolt, as communications aircraft are of an earlier version, powered by Rolls-Royce Viper engines. For fleet commonality, the older 125s are to have their Vipers replaced by TFE 731s.

The RAF uses a larger fleet of Dominies as trainers - flying classrooms for student navigators and air electronics operators.

Student pilots training to fly transport aircraft do much of their training on the BAe Jetstream twin turbo-prop, while the first steps towards flying in the Service

are accomplished in Chipmunk, Bulldog and the venerable Jet Provost, which was first delivered to the RAF for trials in 1955. Bulldogs are used by the 16 university air squadrons.

At the same of writing, the RAF was choosing a decision on a new basic trainer to replace the 119 Jet Provost still in service. A wide selection of aircraft had been offered from both home and abroad, but the choice was narrowing to the BAe P.164 turboprop, and the turbo-prop Firecracker. As fuel economy is high on the list of the Service's priorities, it appeared as if the turbo-prop aircraft might have the edge over the jet.

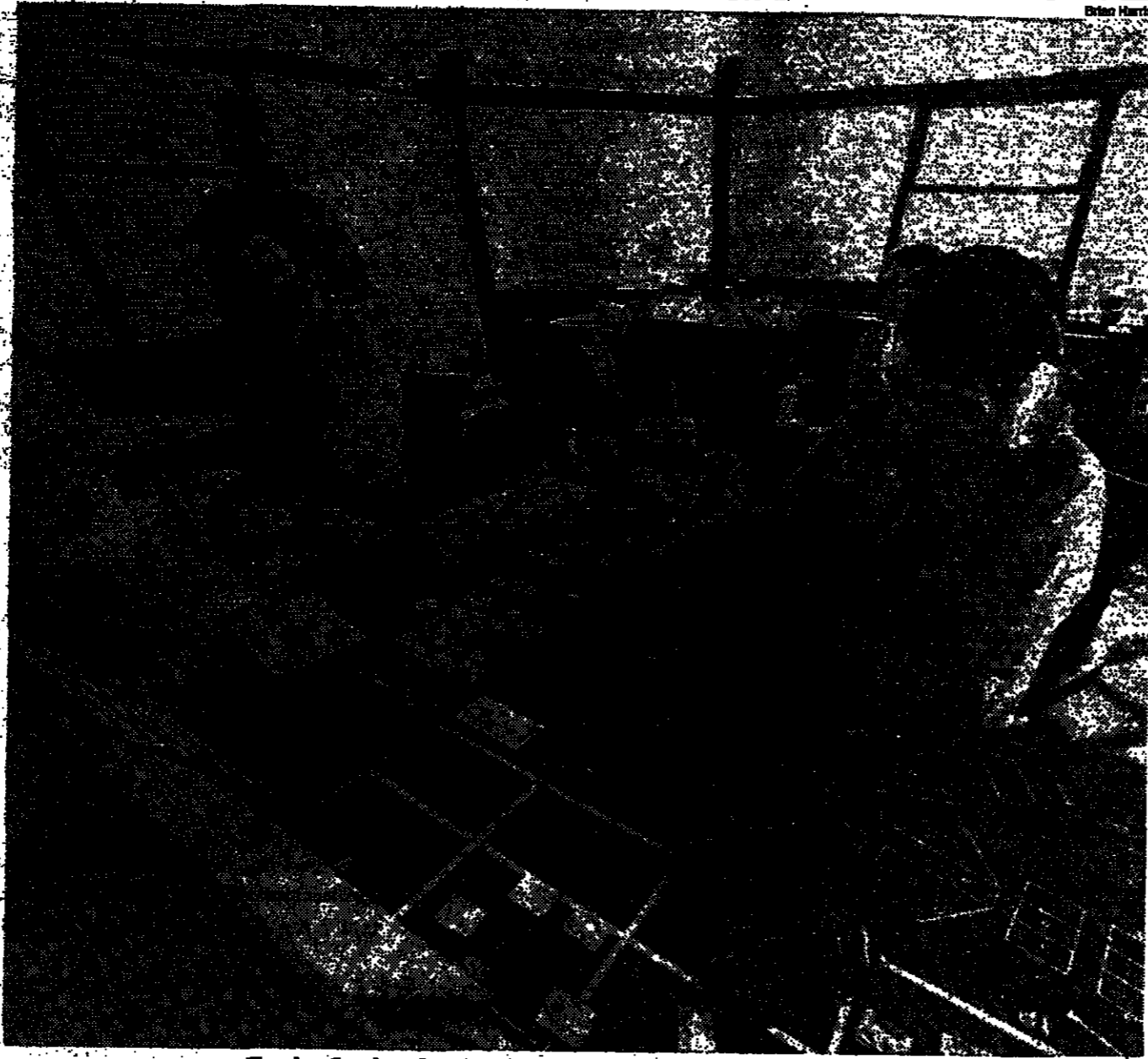
Expected to be a rotary-wing aircraft in the RAF may be traced back as far as 1934, when the first of a fleet of 12 Cierva C-30A autogyros, manufactured under licence by Avro as the Rota, was delivered, and today the Service has 140 helicopters of five main types carrying out a wide range of different tasks.

The twin-rotor Boeing Vertol Chinook is the most recent acquisition. A carrier of large loads, the type was sent to the Falklands, but three were lost with the Atlantic Conveyor, and have since been replaced. The Puma, the RAF's other heavy transport helicopter is a product of an Anglo-French development and manufacturing accord, which also produced the smaller Gazelle, used by the Service mainly for training.

The older Westland Wessex has training and search-and-rescue (SAR) roles, and the larger Westland Sea King is mainly involved in SAR. Both aircraft types have saved hundreds of lives around Britain's coasts, winching up yachtsmen from stricken boats and injured crewmen from the decks of tankers and oil rigs.

In addition to Germany and the Falklands, the RAF keeps aircraft on bases in the world's published parts of the world: Wessex helicopters are based in Hongkong, and also in Alanya, Cyprus, where they support the United Nations contingent, while there is a flight of Harriers in Belize.

With the exception of the famous Red Arrows aerobatic team, flying their Hawk trainers, and the Queen's Flight, with two Andover transport and two Wessex helicopters, two British Aerospace 146 airliners have recently been bought by the RAF for evaluation as replacements for the Andovers, the Service's extensive inventory of other aircraft is seldom in the news.



Keeping the aircraft on target: control tower officers at RAF Marham

THE FALKLANDS

Beating distance as well as the enemy

After the Falklands conflict most of the glory was scooped up by the Royal Navy and the army. For weeks they basked in the cheers of the nation.

The RAF was meanwhile trying to explain why its most eye-catching contribution to the re-conquest of the islands - the bombing of Port Stanley airport, which only briefly denied its use to the Argentines - was more than a "marginally relevant" act.

In fact the RAF's contribution was always more important than it seemed at the time, and has since become absolutely central to Britain's continued control of the islands.

If the raids on Stanley airport were more a tribute to the RAF's technical resourcefulness than to its military effectiveness, there has since been evidence that the

arrival of a Vulcan bomber out of the blue made the Argentines stop and think. And what they thought was that if the RAF could reach Port Stanley it could probably also reach Argentina. As a result, they redeployed their aircraft, more out of fear than of bravado.

RAF Harriers and their crews, who rapidly had to adapt to operating from ships, shared in the achievements of the Sea Harriers.

But the recapture of the Falklands was as much a triumph of logistics as a feat of arms. As critical as defeating the enemy was defeating the distance - 4,000 miles to Ascension, the nearest land base. And here the RAF was indispensable.

Sailing, at only a few days' notice, the task force was inevitably only semi-equipped. Ascension, it has been said, briefly became the busiest airport

in the world as the RAF operated a shuttle service carrying men, arms and equipment for the navy to pick up on their long voyage south.

In the weeks before and immediately after the recapture of the Falklands, RAF transport aircraft carried 5,000 tons of equipment and 5,000 men to Ascension.

The short-range RAF vertical/short take-off Harrier flew out to augment the Royal Navy's aircraft with the task force. Those that flew direct from Britain to Ascension Island needed about eight air-to-air refuellings; those that went on to land on HMS Hermes needed a further eight refuellings. The Vulcan bombing raids on Port Stanley are said to have required the use of 10 air tankers.

Although the RAF was already increasing its air-to-air refuelling

capacity, demands for this facility in the Falklands war far exceeded anything then available. This led to brilliant improvisation by the RAF, and by industry. Vulcan and Hercules aircraft were rapidly converted into air tankers and a system of air-to-air refuelling for Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft was devised and installed in five weeks.

More than 600 air-to-air refuellings were carried out in this period and only six refuelling attempts failed. All aircraft got back to base, though in one instance only after an embarrassing diversion to Brazil.

Since the war the RAF has maintained the "air bridge" from Ascension to the Falklands, using Hercules, which are still dependent on air-to-air refuelling, making about five flights a week. The RAF is concerned that this

delicate, precision operation, which allows small margin for error, may be taken for granted.

The most important watershed since the re-capture of the Falklands was the completion last October of extensions to the runway at Port Stanley. This allowed RAF high performance, supersonic Phantom fighters to be based there and thus give the islands better air cover than they had enjoyed before or during the conflict.

The arrival of these aircraft and the installation this year of new radar has greatly improved the Falklands' defences. The presence of the Phantoms, moreover, has reduced the strain on the navy's resources by removing the necessity to maintain an aircraft carrier in the South Atlantic.

RC

Continued on next page

RECRUITING High-tech, but square-bashing comes first

With the introduction into the inventory of increasingly complex aircraft, aircraft systems, engines and weapons in recent years, the RAF has become a high-technology service. It is not surprising that the annual cost of training the men who fly the aircraft, and the men and women who keep them air-borne, comes to £200m.

Teaching a pilot to be the complete master of a jet such as a Tornado, Phantom, Buccaneer or Lightning will cost up to £2m. Sixty per cent of all RAF tradesmen are in engineering trades, where the learning process is lengthy and expensive.

The training task never ceases and as many as 15,000 of the 90,000 in the RAF pass through one or other of the 2,000 courses which can be mounted each year at 12 major training establishments or smaller schools at operational bases.

The Service is very conscious of the size of its training bill, which encompasses not only "in-house" courses but those with the other Services, in universities and polytechnics and in industry. The *RAF*, objectives, syllabus content, teaching methods, and teaching aids are constantly monitored to ensure that they are relevant to changing operational tasks.

The training machine also has to be extremely flexible for the annual quota of new entrants to the Service varies considerably. It was 3,000 in 1982 but has risen to 8,000 this year, so placing strains on both instructors and accommodation. A national unemployment level of more than three million has resulted in it being easier to fill the quota, and in recruits being more selective.

No academic qualifications are required for entry by airman and airwomen into most of the 128 trades in the RAF, but direct-entry technicians require two O levels at grade C or equivalent, and engineering apprentices require four O levels. Both groups of entrants are expected to have a mathematics or science subject among their results. In recruiting ground-based officers the Service aims for one-third university graduates, but a minimum of five C-grade O-levels is accepted for some branches.

Generations of former airwomen will be interested to know that the six-week initial training course for airmen and airwomen includes the traditional "square-bashing", in addition to lectures on RAF history, standard of dress, organization, hygiene, and discipline.

On completion of this induction the recruit joins a course where he or she is taught the trade chosen on joining. Such courses may last a few months to more than a year, although in the case of apprentices learning esoteric aircraft, engine, and electronics trades, the courses stretch over three years.

Then follows pre-employment training on the specific equipment which will be used - either at an operational station, or at a basic-training school, or occasionally in industry.

Rankers are assessed for potential promotion to NCOs or officers from the day they join (20 per cent of all engineer officers, and 5 per cent of all aircrew come from the ranks). Those selected are sent for command and management training to prepare them for increased responsibilities. The courses are intensive and last for up to three weeks.

Initial training for ground-based officers is done at the RAF College, Cranwell, where the standard course lasts 18 weeks with emphasis on leadership and general administrative skills. The newcomers then go on to specialized training on their chosen areas of employment, and those whose posts require second-degree qualifications, such as officers in the

The Battle of Britain is still being fought.

The task facing the Royal Air Force today is as daunting as it ever was. It is our brief, as watchdogs over Britain, to demonstrate to would-be predators that we are more than capable of holding our own.

We are also charged, in our partnership with NATO, with preserving the status quo in Western Europe. To achieve these aims calls for ceaseless vigilance and the ability to mount a decisive response against those who would threaten us and our allies.

In human terms, it calls for an uncompromising attitude from all those who elect to serve with the RAF.

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Perhaps you have the engineering and scientific skills needed to keep our aircraft flying. Or the ability to communicate them as an Education and Training Officer.

In the air and on the ground the world's most advanced technology will be yours to handle. And we need, if we are to maintain our supremacy, to improve it still further.

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And, in marked contrast to the demands of the day (and sometimes night), the social life is informal and unstuffy, with, of course, excellent sports facilities.

But please don't let our financial and fringe benefits be the deciding factor in applying for a commission. We hope you're looking beyond that.

And that you're just as interested in what you can give to the RAF as what you can get from it.

What now?

Ideally you should have a degree or 'A' levels or a relevant professional qualification. These are mandatory for some branches but for others five acceptable GCE 'O' levels at grade C or equivalent, including English Language and Maths, are a minimum.

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Formal application must be made in the UK.



Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 713.6 up 1.2 FT Gilt: 79.97 up 0.04 FT All Shares: 454.25 up 0.87 Bargains: 18,730 Datastream USM Leaders Index: 94.34 up 0.1 New York: Dow Jones Average (latest) 1238.41 down 5.70 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 686.32 down 2.21 Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 922.75 down 16.12 Amsterdam: 151.2 up 0.4 Sydney: AO Index: 726.9 up 1.8 Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 931.30 up 2.90 Brussels: General Index: 133.71 up 0.57 Paris: CAC Index: 134.9 down 0.3 Zurich: SKA General Index: 268.8 down 0.9

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.4920 up 5pts Index 84.8 up 0.2 DM 3.9875 down 0.0125 Fr 12.0200 down 0.0350 Yen 365.00 down 1.00 Dollar Index 129.0 down 0.3 DM 2.6785 NEW YORK LATEST Sterling \$1.4925 Dollar DM 2.6740 INTERNATIONAL ECUE0.568986 SDRE0.700100

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rate 9 1/2% Finance houses base rate 10% Discount market loans week fixed 9 1/2% 3 month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2% Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 10 1/2-9 1/2% 3 month DM 5 1/2-5% 3 month Fr 14 1/2-14% US rates: Bank prime rate 11 Fed funds 9% Treasury long bond 10 1/2-10 3/4% ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period August 3 to September 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.930 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$414.50 pm \$414.00 close \$414.41-75 (£277.50-78) New York latest: \$414.00 Krugerrand (per coin): \$426.50-428 (£286-287) Sovereigns (new): \$97.50-98.50 (£65.25-66) Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interim: European Ferries, HB Electronic Components, Home Counties Newspapers, Sharona Ware. Firms: Hayles Publishing, Second Alliance Trust, Economic Statistics, Central Government transactions, including borrowing requirement (August).

ANNUAL MEETINGS

D. F. Bevan, Midland Hotel, Birmingham (12.15). J. Brown, 4 The Sanctuary, Westminster, (12.30). Electric Components, City Conference Centre, Mark Lane EC3, (noon). General Electric, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, (12.00). Mitchell Somers, Painters Hall, Little Trinity Lane, EC4 (noon). Norton Opax, Queen's Hotel, Leeds (noon). Pilkington Brothers, Prescott Road, St Helens (2.30). R.F.D. Group, Baltic Exchange, St Mary Axe, EC3 (noon). Radiant Metal Finishing, 69 Fairfield Road, Bow (10.30). Russell (Alexander), Royal Scottish Automobile Club, Blythswood Square, Glasgow (noon). Thorn EMI, Barbican Centre, Silk Street (noon). Youghal Carpets, (Holdings), Hilltop Hotel, Youghal, Co Cork (noon).

NOTEBOOK

Delta Group, the electrical, metal-forming and household products company, has lifted interim pretax profits from £5.51m to £13.4m. But some of the improvement came from stock profits of £4.18m, against a loss of £2.04m. Margins are under pressure in Britain and trading in southern Africa and Australasia was hampered by the recession. The dividend is maintained at 1.82p.

Approval for sell-off 'not a foregone conclusion' BP's North Sea oil auction raises tax loss fears at Treasury

The Government is worried about the possible impact on its North Sea oil revenues of BP's plan to auction part of its holdings in the Forties field, Britain's most productive field. Both the Department of Energy and the Treasury made it clear yesterday that they would be studying the tax implications of the deal very carefully before giving final approval to BP's plan to sell up to 12 per cent of the field to other companies. Some estimates are that the plan could cost the Treasury as much as £200m in lost oil revenues over the next two to three years, since potential purchasers will pay less than BP, although this should be offset by higher tax receipts in later years. News of the proposed BP deal helped to send BP's shares up 8p to 438p yesterday. Most analysts agreed with the company that the auction - which BP hopes will raise a minimum of £250m - was a shrewd and beneficial deal. The stock market is still expecting the Government to press ahead as soon as possible with its promised sale of another £500m of shares in BP. The final go-ahead for the sale is expected to be announced in the middle of next week. Despite the favourable stock market reaction, however, the Government was at pains to emphasize that it was concerned by the broader implications as of the deal, however much it may have improved the prospects for the impending issue. Officially both the Department of Energy and the Treasury confined themselves to saying that it would have to consider the auction plan - the first of its kind in the North Sea - with great care. But privately they were letting it be known that approval was by no means a foregone conclusion, especially if it appeared that other oil companies might follow BP's example and sell some of their North Sea oil interests to rationalize their tax position. The crux of the BP deal is that allows them to sell part of their highly taxed Forties production to other companies which can use the field's mature production to offset against exploration and appraisal drilling expenses in other parts of the North Sea. The precise impact of the deal on Government revenues will depend on which companies bid. Sources close to BP said that the loss of revenue was likely to be only between £80m and £140m over a period of three years. The stockbroker Scott Goff Hancock said that the loss of revenue would be no more than £165m in a full year - which compared with total annual North Sea oil revenues of more than £8,000m. Senior BP executives are known however to be aware of the sensitive political implications of the proposed deal. Unconfirmed reports said that Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy was unhappy to find the BP proposal so abruptly planted on his desk when he returned from holiday earlier this week. It is accepted in Whitehall however that any short-term loss of revenues is likely to be more than compensated for in the longer term by companies exploring for and developing new fields as a result of the tax write-offs they acquire from BP by purchasing part of the Forties field. Although a great number of companies are expected to be interested in the BP offer, there was considerable doubt in the City and the oil industry last night whether enough buyers with suitable favourable tax positions could be found to buy the entire 10 per cent of Forties that BP is putting up for auction. BP says that no buyer will be allowed to buy more than two per cent of the field. Another two per cent is being sold directly to two unnamed oil companies. British companies have been discouraged by Florida's unitary taxation laws and there is little point in encouraging British businessmen to invest according to the London chamber of commerce and industry which yesterday cancelled a trade mission to the state.

Europe presses for better dollar control

Concern over the lack of US leadership on currency issues is almost certain to result in a European effort to force the Reagan Administration to control the erratic movement of the dollar, sources in Washington said. There is increasing consensus among European and Asian officials that a campaign to force the United States to pay greater attention to exchange rates in setting monetary policy must be launched at the joint annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund later this month. Adding to the external pressures are domestic efforts to force the Reagan Administration to control the upward movement of the dollar, which has seriously affected the US trade position over the past year. Several powerful business associations have staged well-financed lobbying campaigns in support of Congressional resolutions to curb erratic movements in the dollar in relations to other currencies. These are likely to intensify in the weeks ahead as the Congressmen return from a summer recess. The misalignment of the dollar and other major currencies is the most important single factor behind America's dismal trade performance of the last few years. The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) said in a letter to members and congressmen. In addition, IMF officials, expressing continued concern over the volatility of exchange rates and the apparent ineffectiveness of recent intervention attempts in exchange markets, are privately putting pressure on the United States to use the exchange rate as "an indicator" in setting monetary policy. A growing number of international officials have begun to express concern over the squabbling within the Reagan Administration on monetary issues. The German Central Bank yesterday raised its official Lombard interest rate from 5 to 5.5 per cent in reaction to above-target monetary growth. Its other key rate, the discount rate, was left unchanged at 4 per cent. The move was followed by the Austrian and Dutch central banks. The German Central Bank yesterday raised its official Lombard interest rate from 5 to 5.5 per cent in reaction to above-target monetary growth. Its other key rate, the discount rate, was left unchanged at 4 per cent. The move was followed by the Austrian and Dutch central banks.

Return to profits at Talbot

Talbot UK, the British arm of the French Peugeot motor group, has recorded a first-half profit for the first time in 10 years. It made £1.5m, against a loss of £40.6m a year ago. At the same time, Mr George Turnbull, the Talbot UK chairman, said yesterday he hoped to begin talks with ministers soon on the company's plan for a huge investment programme in Britain. Mr Turnbull said yesterday he hoped to begin talks with ministers soon on the company's plan for a huge investment programme in Britain. Mr Turnbull said yesterday he hoped to begin talks with ministers soon on the company's plan for a huge investment programme in Britain. Mr Turnbull said yesterday he hoped to begin talks with ministers soon on the company's plan for a huge investment programme in Britain.



Turnbull: £42m turnaround in first half

Monopolies referral for £67m GKN bid

The £67m takeover bid by Guest, Keen and Nettlefold for AE (the old Associated Engineering) was yesterday referred to the Monopolies Commission - more to the dismay of GKN than AE. Mr Cecil Parkinson, Trade and Industry Minister, accepted the advice of Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading. This is the second major takeover offer he has sent to the Commission since becoming Trade Minister. The earlier one was the £300m Trafalgar House offer for the P & O shipping group. GKN said it "regretted" Mr Parkinson's decision. The merger would have presented a "significant opportunity to restructure an important section of the UK automotive components industry to meet international competition." Although, under the terms of the offer, the GKN bid lapsed on the referral, the industrial giant intends to argue its case before the Monopolies Commission. AE would not comment on Mr Parkinson's decision but said it would "cooperate fully" with the Commission. Its directors were yesterday locked in a board meeting. Mr John Collyear, the chairman, and his board had initially rejected the GKN offer. But a higher bid tempted them into what appeared to be reluctant acceptance. Rumours that the bid would be referred to Commission circulated in the City this week and were reported in The Times on Wednesday. The Stock Exchange was making a routine preliminary inquiry into dealings in AE's shares before yesterday's announcement. On the stock market, GKN shares rose 3p to 177p yesterday and AE's fell 8p to 50p. GKN looked upon the merger as an important move in shaking up the car components industry. Job losses were regarded by industry observers as inevitable if the bid had succeeded and GKN had attempted to streamline the industry. Stockbrokers Laurence, Prust and Co., representing around 5 per cent of AE's shares, strongly opposed the offer. Mr Patrick Everhard, a partner, believes that after AE's heavy spending on plant and research, the company should start to make impressive headway. He maintained that even the higher GKN offer "seriously undervalued" AE. The Laurence, Prust thinking is that the AE profits revival will be showing through by the time the Commission reports in six months.

Prudential shares fall despite dividend rise

The Prudential Corporation, Britain's biggest insurance group, yesterday announced an £8.3m increase in after-tax profits to £28.3m in the six months to June 30. The interim dividend has been increased from 5p to 5.5p a share although the shares fell by 20p to 462p on the news that the stockmarket registered its disappointment at figures which fell far short of £33m-plus forecasts. A breakdown of the figures showed higher profits from the group's longer-term business which was up by £1.9m to £25.6m and a reduced loss after tax on the general insurance business down from £8m to £2.7m. Underwriting losses on the general business were reduced by £4.8m to £37.3m helped by a return to profits in Canada and reduced underwriting losses in Britain, which were down from £16.9m to £14.8m. A reduction in motor insurance rates by the group earlier this year pushed up the underwriting loss of Prudential's motor business from £3.5m to £5.1m. But the cheaper rate structure announced earlier this year has helped increase motor business and it is now expected to move to a sounder footing. The mild winter helped the group reduce underwriting losses on its household insurance business from £3.4m to £4.9m. Investment income from general insurance and shareholders funds combined increased by 19 per cent to £43.5m.

WALL STREET Profit-taking hits Dow

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - On the New York Stock Exchange shares continued to fall in early trading yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by about 5 points. More than 700 stocks were lower and about 600 higher. There was heavy institutional activity in the first hour, especially by Goldman Sachs. Most of this dried up later. There was also some profit-taking after two strong days in which the Dow rose by a total of almost 39 points. But the market's decline was modest and some of the cyclical stocks were gaining favour while the technology companies were coming under pressure. Lockheed, after being delayed in opening because of an imbalance of orders, was trading at 116 1/2 to 117 1/4. It has won a \$2bn (£134m) space shuttle order. Rockwell International, which lost the contract, was down 1 1/2 to 28 1/4. Banks were lower in active trading with Citicorp down 1 1/2 to 36 1/2, Chase Manhattan, 49 1/2, Chemical Bank, 46 1/2, down 1. Bankers' Trust, 44 1/2, off 1/2. Manufacturers Hanover 41 1/2, off 1/2. The Wall Street Journal and Dow Jones News Service reported that the third-quarter earnings of New York's banks may be hurt by Brazil's loan arrears.

Compensation in commodities

Commodity markets yesterday agreed to set up their first compensation fund to protect private clients when a broker goes bust. The current scheme would give £7,500 of cover to each investor in the event of failure. In his interim report on investor protection, Professor Laurence "Jim" Gower, company law adviser at the Department of Trade and Industry, recommended the formation of a Futures Brokers' Association and a compensation fund, to cover the commodity markets. However, the London Metal Exchange (LME) last night decided to break away from any such association and set up a compensation fund on its own.

Commonwealth experts call for urgent action Backing for new Bretton Woods

The prospect of a new Bretton Woods conference on reform of the world financial and trading system came a step closer yesterday with the publication of a Commonwealth expert's support calling for immediate start to preparations by a representative group of ministers and top international officials. The report, Towards a new Bretton Woods, is likely to be received favourably at Commonwealth finance ministers' meeting in a fortnight in Trinidad. It will also provide ammunition for proponents of reform when the issues are discussed at the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund later this month and at the Commonwealth heads of government conference in New Delhi in November. The support was commissioned by Commonwealth finance ministers last year after pressure from Mr Robert Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister. Since then, President Mitterrand of France has also urged the setting up of a new Bretton Woods conference and secured the agreement of sceptical heads of government at the Williamsburg summit last June. The report, prepared by nine leading bankers and economists, including Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, says a strong global recovery is essential to remove the threat of a big financial crisis with its "certain promise of economic chaos". But it says a durable non-inflationary recovery will be hard to achieve without improvement in the international financial system. The report proposes: Target zones or guidelines to secure more stable exchange rates under the IMF supervision. A greater international coordination and supervision of national policies affecting trade and finance, perhaps by extending the IMF's role. More resources for the World Bank and the IMF, including authority for the fund to borrow from capital markets. Increased official aid flows and measures to stabilize commodity prices, especially oil. Measures to encourage direct investment and other flows to reduce the role of lending by commercial banks. An action to halt protectionism and the eventual setting up of a new umbrella institution to supervise world trade. The report's supporters hope that backing by Commonwealth governments could give the issue momentum. Not only do they represent a third of the world's nations but their leaders, notably Mrs Thatcher and Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, are highly influential in the international community.

City Editor's Comment American Janus in world finance

Treasury officials and central bankers are in for a busy time. On next week's agenda at the central governors' meeting at the Bank for International Settlements and at the meeting of the Group of Ten industrial countries deputies later in the week is the question of finance for both the International Monetary Fund and for Brazil, its biggest customer. Governors and officials will be discussing a \$3bn bridging loan from G10 countries for the IMF to cover its commitments gap - the difference between its resources and what it has promised to borrowers. Meanwhile, talks will continue on the \$11bn (£7.3m) rescue plan for Brazil. Governments are proposing that commercial banks provide \$7bn of this and they in effect provide \$4bn towards closing Brazil's external financing gap by rescheduling official loan payments and guaranteeing new trade credits which banks would have to provide. The intriguing political aspect to these two sets of talks is the position of the US. It is firmly taking the lead in the Brazilian rescue, spurred on both by concern about the financial implications of Brazil going under, but perhaps more importantly by the foreign policy implications. For other western countries such as Britain, France, Germany and Japan who would all have to play significant roles in the rescue, Brazil has far less strategic importance. At the end of the day, worries about their own banking systems will probably tip the balance but it may take a fair amount of cajoling by the Americans before a package falls firmly into place. When it comes to the IMF, however, the boot may be on the other foot. Most of the big industrialized nations have moved swiftly to approve their share of the IMF's crucial quota increase. The US, however has dragged its feet and while opposition in Congress is the excuse, there are many who feel that the Administration has not done its best to get the quota increase through Congress. When it comes to a \$3bn bridging loan for the IMF it could be that the US will again prove a problem. It may, for instance, feel agreeing to help with a bridging loan could further hinder getting the IMF quota rise through Congress and delay on the bridging loan is the best course. Another possibility which has been floated is that the US would not contribute to the IMF bridging loan, but instead take a bigger share of government support for Brazil. The reasoning is that Congressmen can see a direct link between American jobs and the solvency of Brazil although they cannot grasp a link between jobs at home and money for the IMF. As far as the Brazilian problem itself is concerned, the clock is ticking away and commercial bankers appear to be increasingly worried at the lack of movement on the Brazilian side. A new letter of intent with the IMF has still not been signed. Even when it is, there will be some boxing to come between commercial banks and governments. The banks say they cannot raise the \$7bn which governments say they should. Indeed, bankers say that \$6bn of new bank loan may well prove impossible. Furthermore, the banks still want governments to provide finance which matches the likely maturities of the new loans they will raise, and they also want government help in the form of straight balance of payments finance.

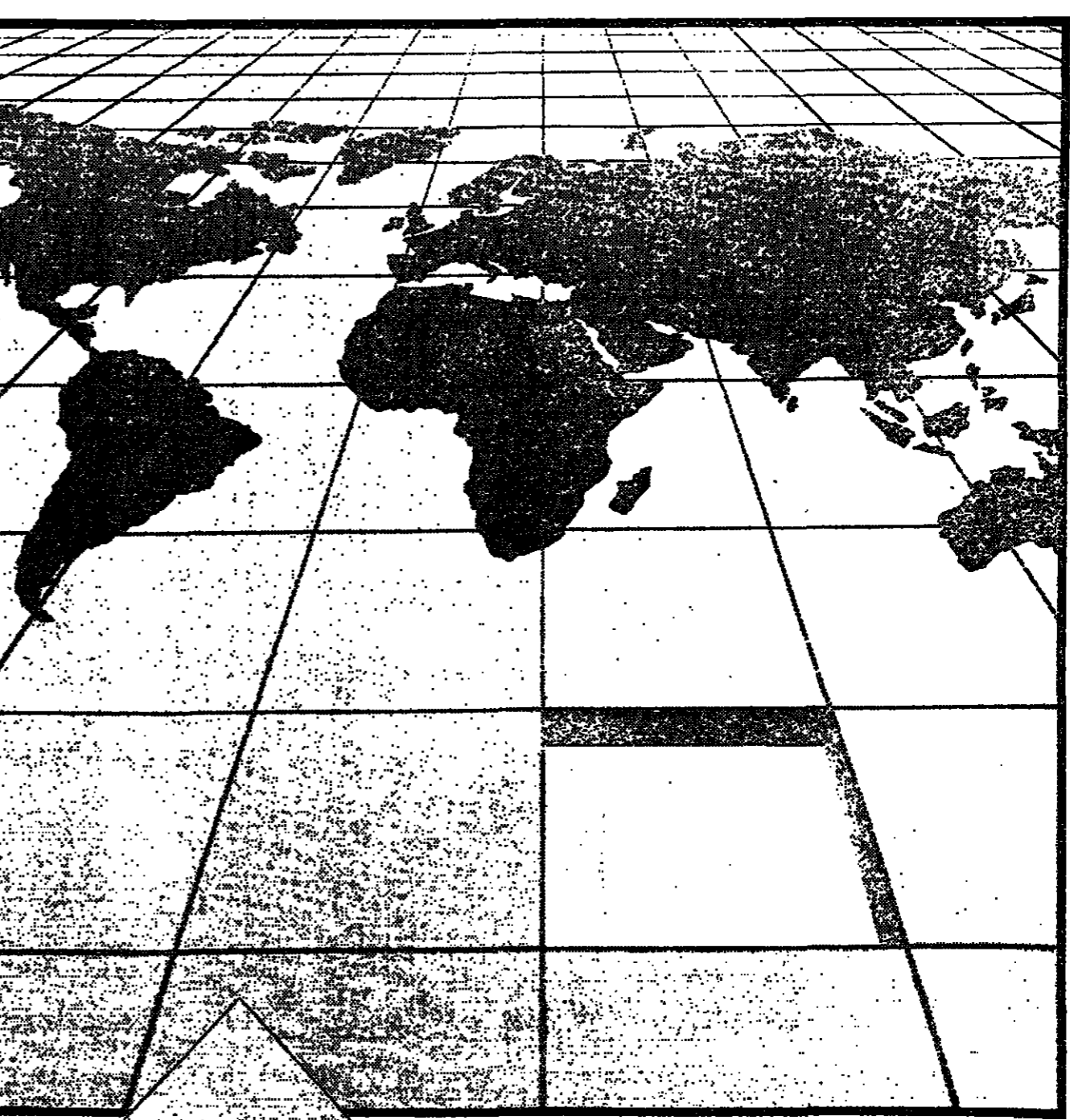


Table with 4 columns: Six months' results (unaudited), 1983, 1982, Full year 1982. Rows include Revenue, Profit before taxation, Earnings for the period, Earnings per ordinary share, Dividend per ordinary share.

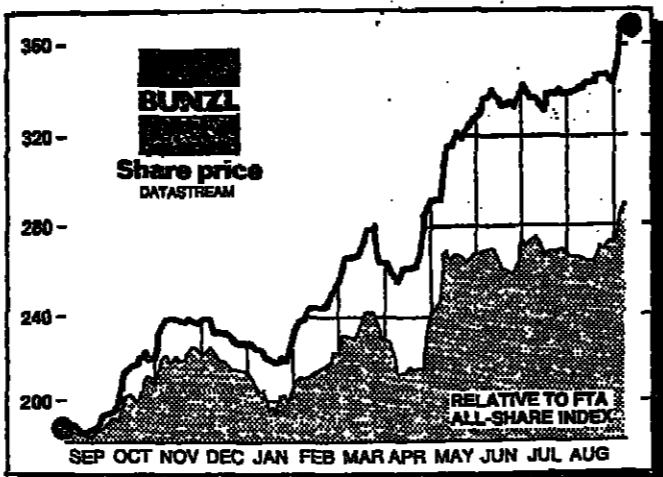
Sedgwick Group logo and text: A commanding presence in worldwide insurance and reinsurance broking.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Portals
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £7m (£8.1m)
Stated earnings 16.72p (16.27p)
Turnover £90.1m (£81.3m)
Net interim dividend 6.25p (5.75p)
Share price 545p down 40p Yield 8.5%

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest
Bunzl reaps dividend from US expansion

Bunzl
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £7.8m (£5m)
Stated earnings 15.6p (12.4p)
Turnover £228m (£173m)
Net interim dividend 5p (4.5p)
Share price 368p same yield



Bunzl is already beginning to reap some dividend from its expansion into the US and away from its traditional dependence on manufacture of cigarette filters.

These days the group is much better described as a paper, packaging and distribution company after a series of acquisitions this year which have added seven US distribution companies and Transparent Paper, the loss-making British cellulose company, to the Bunzl stable.

The company credits the new US businesses with much of the 30 per cent improvement in interim pretax profits to £7.9m from a turnover which rose by 32 per cent to £228m.

The board gave some indication of its confidence in the future by recommending that the dividend should be increased by 11 per cent from 4.5p to 5p.

After the aggressive acquisition policy, which has cost £30m this year, Bunzl is expecting a contribution to group profits comfortably ahead of the cost of the associated borrowings.

About 45 per cent of the cost of the acquisitions has been deferred and made conditional on future levels of profits, which are benefiting from a sustained upturn in the US economy.

In particular, helped contribute to the £1.64m profits achieved by the division.

Bunzl is still looking for further acquisitions despite the activity so far this year and the failure of the £16m bid for Bemrose, the Derby security printer.

Although the group is making strong progress, there are doubts about the dependence on individual entrepreneurs within the organization for profit achievement, particularly on the US distribution side.

The first half British cigarette filters business is also unlikely to perform as strongly for the rest of the year and pretax profits of £10m at the final stage are a reasonable expectation.

The determination of the board to expand quickly also points to a rights issue if the shares remain steady for the rest of the year.

Delta Group
Half-year to 27.8.83
Pretax profit £13.9m (£5.51m)
Stated earnings 4.8p (0.4p)
Turnover £258m (£258m)
Net interim dividend 1.82p (1.82p)
Share price 61p Yield 7.8%

Delta hovers between being an income stock at some stages of the industrial cycle when the yield goes into double figures and a recovery stock at other stages.

At the moment, however, it seems to be neither fish nor fowl. A yield of 7.8 per cent and multiple of about 10 leave Delta little room for income or recovery.

The strategic problem is that most of the company's businesses are low-technology and mature. A good part of the electrical (cables, wiring and switches), fluid controls (what the rest of us call taps) and assorted non-ferrous products can be made more cheaply almost anywhere in the Third World. Unlike IML for

example, Delta does not appear to have tried hard to go up market.

To be fair, these latter figures point to a considerable improvement in Britain, to which the company has devoted much management time and where heavy rationalization (closures and redundancies) have undoubtedly been effective.

If the traditionally important markets of Australia and southern Africa had not been depressed, the figures might have been distinctly better.

But the fact remains that margins in Britain are still under considerable pressure. Turnover actually fell by £7m to £252m, largely because of the lower level of activity in the southern hemisphere, and trading profit rose from £10.6m to £16.4m.

On this basis, Delta will make about £20m pretax for the full year, possibly more if South Africa and Australia improve. Nevertheless, there is little for shareholders to anticipate, and the stock looks set to continue being an institutional preserve.

Hepworth Ceramic
Hepworth Ceramic directors appear in front of the monopolies Commission today for the first time before the November's pronouncement in late November on whether they are allowed to renew their takeover bid for Steeley, the facing brick and aggregate group, they will be fortified by a handsome profit increase.

It is already believed in the City that the commission will accept Hepworth's case that Britain's refractories industry is in need of

rationalization and that combining the dominant interests of the two groups in the industry will therefore do no harm.

This line of thinking is backed up by the revelation - so far unconfirmed by Steeley - that Steeley had agreed to merge its refractories business with that of Hepworth before receiving the unwanted £114m takeover bid last May.

If Hepworth gets the go-ahead, it will have to bid considerably more than it did last time. Steeley's shares are now trading at around 225p against the 187p at which the May bid had valued them.

The battle will hinge on Hepworth's claim that it can make Steeley's assets work much better than the present management. Hepworth has certainly managed to set its own house in order over the last three years as yesterday's half-year results indicate.

Pretax profits are up 24 per cent from £12.1m to £15m and look set to grow by more - possibly as much as 30 per cent - during the second half. The group's efforts in reducing its cost base have combined with heavy investment in new kiln technology, higher sales to the booming housebuilding industry, and loss elimination in the United States to take the group off the profits plateau of the last three years.

So tight has Hepworth's cost control become that the present upturn in its clay pipe division is feeding virtually straight through into profits. The new 'roller kilns' are achieving output growth as a consequence cut its planned commissioning of a further three 'roller kilns' early next year to two.

Ironically, this success has limited the company's ability to force through price increases, but that does not seem to have harmed the present rise in profitability.

Wm Collins

William Collins
Half-year to 3.7.83
Pretax profit £2.04m (£1.25m)
Stated earnings 10.5p (7.1p)
Turnover £43.1m (£35.7m)
Net interim dividend 3.5p (3.00p)
Share price 341p Yield 3.8%

William Collins yesterday rewarded shareholders for their support of the book publishing, manufacturing and distribution company in fighting off an unwanted bid from News International in the summer of 1981.

In doing so, it also paid a handsome cheque to News International, Mr Rupert Murdoch's UK newspaper group which owns The Times, and retains a 41.68 per cent stake in Collins.

The interim is raised 16 per cent to 3.5p and is paid on a 63 per cent increase in pretax profits. The board seems confident that this rate of increase will continue through the second half.

Collins sales rose 20 per cent from £35.6m to £43m. At the pretax level, profits came out at just over £2m against £1.2m last time.

In the opening half, Collins benefited from a three months' contribution from Granada Publishing, for which Collins paid £8.7m last March.

However, a solid performance from its traditional areas has been boosted by a significant contribution from the Glasgow-based manufacturing operations. The workforce there has been reduced from 2,500 to 1,400 over recent years and productivity is hitting records.

The stock market welcomed the profits and an ordinary shares rose by 8p to 341p while the 'A' shares gained 15p to 311p. Around 65 per cent of Collins shares remain in three hands. News International's purchase of either of the two other significant blocks would give it control.

Norcros bid was 'ill conceived'

By Jonathan Clare

Norcros had made an 'ill-conceived' attempt to cash in on UBM's growth, according to Mr Allen Sheppard, UBM's chairman.

Mr Sheppard also alleges in UBM's formal defence document against the unwanted £64m bid that Norcros was unable to deal with the losses of the defunct Hygeia kitchen furniture division in spite of promises made every year for six years. The brand name was bought by MFI, which has since successfully used it on its own products.

But the document contains no profits forecast for interim statement. Mr Sheppard has promised a substantial but unspecified increase in dividends this year. The company has paid as much as 5.5p in the past and the City expects at least that amount for this year with likely profits of £10m.

Yesterday, Hill Samuel, Norcros' advisers said: 'There are two important omissions - there is no profits forecast nor interim statement. They highlight the dividend but do not quantify it. They are rude about Hygeia - but if that is all they can criticize, we cannot be at all bad.'

But the City believes that the real battle is still to come and that the two sides are merely squaring up. It expects that Norcros will make a higher bid.

The likely strategy is an improved offer, though still low, to draw a profits forecast from UBM followed by a final offer which it hopes shareholders will accept. The first closing date of the current offer is next Wednesday, but this could be extended.

West Coast Hides, the Australian mining explorer, is close to an agreement which could bring in a London-based finance house to pay for proving up its gold deposit at an abandoned mine, Donnybrook, Western Australia. If the feasibility study is successful, Donnybrook is said to have 'potential to be the biggest gold producer in Australia.'

WALL STREET

New York (NYTNS) - A group of companies led by Lockheed has beaten a consortium led by Rockwell International to win a contract potentially worth billions of dollars to provide launching and landing services for shuttle flights.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is to award a three-year contract to the team headed by Lockheed Space

Operations to perform shuttle services at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida and the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

The contract will contain an option for another three years, at a cost for the initial six-year period of about \$2bn (£1,340m). The potential contract period is 15 years, raising the value to more than £15bn.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES
Coffee: Robusta in £s per metric ton
Coffee: Arabica in £s per metric ton
Gas-oil in US¢ per metric ton.

Table of commodity prices including coffee, gas-oil, and various metals.

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET

in US¢ per oz.
Sept 83 414.50-414.90
Oct 83 414.50-414.90
Nov 83 414.50-414.90
Dec 83 414.50-414.90
Jan 84 414.50-414.90
Feb 84 414.50-414.90
Mar 84 414.50-414.90
Apr 84 414.50-414.90
May 84 414.50-414.90
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APPOINTMENTS

C. E. Heath group board changes

C. E. Heath (International) Mr D. H. Newton is now chairman. Mr N. J. Chamberlain and Mr J. Percy-Davis are now joint managing directors. Mr J. J. Burton has resigned from the board of C. E. Heath plc to undertake a consultancy role in which he will develop the group's broking interests outside the United Kingdom. He has also resigned from the board of C. E. Heath (Insurance Broking) and from the board and chairmanship of C. E. Heath (International).

Co-operative Wholesale Society: Mr Alan Prescott has been named as financial controller to succeed Mr Quentin Russell on his retirement this month. Nettingham Building Society: Lord Chalfont has been appointed president. C.R.S.: Mr William Farrow, chief executive of United Co-Operatives, will be chief executive in succession to Mr R. A. Lee. Mr Farrow will take office at the end of October.

Norwich Brewery: Mr Ian Kirkhope has become production and distribution director.

Macarthy Pharmaceuticals: Mr Barry Thompson, managing director of Farrillon, will take up the newly-created post of management services director of Macarthy Ltd on October 1. Mr John Mori will become managing director of Farrillon. He will be replaced as marketing director of Macarthy by Mr Jim Canning.

St Martins Property Corporation: Mr Brian Cann (formerly Joint Chief Executive) is now managing director. Mr John Stringer (also formerly joint chief executive) becomes chief executive (corporate). Mr Malcolm Savage (previously executive director/chief surveyor) is promoted to chief executive (property). Mr Norman Hogben has been made executive director/chief surveyor. Mr Peter Kershaw has been appointed executive director/London Bridge City and Mr Glyn Lamberti has become executive director/Europe. Mr Christopher Bellhouse (property controller), Mr Ian Mitchell (group accountant) and Mr William Renwick (northern) continue as executive directors.

Michael Prest looks at arguments against large-scale intervention

Third World theories face a counter-revolution

For every practical crisis there is a crisis of ideas, and so it is in the Third World. While the problems of poverty, slums and unemployment have commanded international attention, behind the scenes theories about development are threatened with a counter-revolution.

The object of the attack is the post-war consensus which, broadly speaking, has favoured aid, large-scale intervention in developing countries, and managed trade as agents of growth. The outcome could be a radical change in the development strategies of developed and developing countries to smaller government and more open economies.

Stripped to its essentials, the debate is whether the populations of many Third World countries would be better off if their governments had allowed relative prices to allocate resources rather than trying to mould the economy by extensive state intervention.

A secondary theme is the degree to which the allegedly state-control approach of many developing country governments from a body of economic thinking which has grown up since the Second World War and may generally be called "development economics".

At first sight this is just another abstract squabble between the advocates and opponents of markets. But the issue goes deeper. First, the diverse sources of criticism of the policies followed by developing country governments - ranging from predictable conservative opinion, through august institutions such as the World Bank, to the countries themselves means the argument should not be dismissed lightly.

Secondly, the critics' case, while springing partly from the disintegration in the West of the Keynesian consensus which undoubtedly influenced development thinking, also owes much to empirical evidence accumulated over many years. For example, the World Bank concludes with characteristic care in its World Development Report 1983 that "price reforms are needed so all economies can conform better to their comparative advantage, keep wages in line with productivity, and remove price distortions." It is hard to dismiss the Bank as an agent of imperialism.

Indices of price distortions and various components of growth in the 1970s

Table with columns: Country, Distortion Index, Annual GDP growth rate (per cent), Annual growth rate of agriculture (per cent), Annual growth rate of industry (per cent), Annual growth rate of services (per cent). Rows include Malawi, Thailand, Cameroon, Korea, Rep, Malaysia, Philippines, Tunisia, Kenya, Yugoslavia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Mexico, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Turkey, Senegal, Pakistan, Jamaica, Uruguay, Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Ghana, Overall ave.

Source: World Bank, World Development Report 1983

The crucial point here is that Third World governments are more vulnerable to pressure for policy change, whether from multilateral bodies or from individual governments, than they have been in the whole post-colonial period. The experience of Brazil, Mexico and other heavily indebted countries demonstrates, moreover, that this pressure will be applied.

No doubt the willingness to exploit the weakness of Third World countries also stems from a gradual loss of guilt in the West about the colonial era. Moreover, conservative administrations in Britain and the United States have played their part in altering attitudes.

In Britain, for example, aid budgets have been cut and official spending on education about

corporations, protection, and overblown bureaucracies which undoubtedly characterize many Third World governments.

But a more cogent *tour d'horizon* has been published by the right-wing Institute of Economic Affairs in London. It is all the more powerful for not advancing a crude laissez-faire approach. Put as an elegant polemic, the argument is that several influential postwar thinkers such as Arthur Lewis, Ragnar Nurkse, and Gunnar Myrdal founded development economics on the assumption that the neo-classical emphasis on relative prices was inappropriate to the developing world.

Their reasons for rejecting relatively open economies as the path to growth were legion: left to the mercies of the market, developing countries would suffer perpetual foreign shortages, demand commodities would be inelastic to prevent adverse terms of trade, the technological lead in metropolitan countries would stifle infant Third World industries, and foreign capital, whether portfolio investment or even aid, was inherently exploitative.

The remedies are familiar. Trade barriers were erected to protect industries and exchange controls introduced to conserve precious foreign currency. Commodity agreements were demanded for investment. Indeed, the whole apparatus, it is maintained, inescapably implied big government.

Unfortunately, big government was the one thing developing countries could not supply. The shortages of skilled labour, the poor infrastructure, and lack of an administrative culture affected governments as much as business - a point easily overlooked.

The empirical evidence, the second strand is hard to ignore. The table shows that those countries which adopted a relatively open economy generally fared best. The fact that the fastest growing countries started from different bases and are spread across several continents suggests that their colonial experiences, culture and history are not the most important factors. The evidence seems to be that even supposedly benighted peasants

exploit the comparative advantage of different prices.

The national empirical evidence has been supported by studies of particular economic sectors. For some years, the World Bank and other agencies have quietly inveighed against food prices which discriminate against farmers in favour of urban consumers, or against overvalued exchange rates, or state corporations which are unresponsive to producers and consumers. The table illustrates the relationship between price distortion and growth.

Perhaps the most telling attacks on the development orthodoxy, however, have come from within developing countries themselves. The third strand, Delivering the Fourth Harry G. Johnson Memorial Lecture in July, Mr Goh Keng Swee, First Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, said: "The LDC strategy of achieving growth through import substitution industrialization encourages corruption... Domestic markets which have to be protected by shut-out tariff are small in relation to plant capacity in most manufacturing processes. This usually leads to the establishment of monopolies since one enterprise can often serve market demand."

Yet it is not a straight fight between laissez-faire and state cash. Rather, the greatest strength of the new criticism of development economics is that it recognizes the impossibility of perfect competition. The IEA study emphasizes the use of welfare economics - that branch of economics which analyses the optimum way of achieving a desired end. It very reasonably points out that the welfare approach does not prejudice the issue: intervention may be the answer, but equally doing nothing could be the best course.

In practice, the most obvious consequence of the new thinking is simply the idea that aid or assistance is less valuable if developing countries do not put their own house in order. This attitude was underlined, for instance, the call by IDA for extra lending to sub-Saharan Africa. The counter-revolution has already scored small victories; it may not march on to greater ones.

"Deepak Lal: The Poverty of Development Economics: IEA, £3.00

Industrial notebook Disaster lurking in geographical aid

Many years ago, the Rootes Group - later to become Chrysler UK and now the French-owned Talbot company - invited a group of journalists to partake of liquid refreshments aboard a railway train in the middle of Coventry. The idea was to crown a new deal that had been struck with British Rail to operate a special rail link between Coventry and the new showpiece car factory at Linwood in Scotland.

The company was coy about the financial aspects of the arrangement but was at pains to describe the virtues of the rapid two-way link which would ferry Coventry-made bits and pieces all the way to south-west Glasgow. To many, however, the idea seemed ludicrous at the time and, with hindsight, it must have played a significant part in the downfall of the company.

Not that Rootes could be blamed for trying to recoup some of the loss associated with the Linwood operation: the company had little choice but to attempt to make the best of a piece of regional policy madness that drove it against its better judgment to Scotland when it would have been more sensible to stay in the Midlands.

Now, the wheel of fate has turned full circle and it is the West Midlands itself, once the metal heart of Shropshire, that is in danger of being designated an assisted area. No region, particularly the West Midlands with its history of independence and prosperity, wants to be associated with charity. Regional development aid has the stigma of being the handout, and creating a so-called intermediate area centred on the West Midlands would, in many people's views, be a disaster.

But this appears to be one of the chief remedies for the region's ill now being considered by Mr Norman Lamont, the Industry Minister. It has emerged from the long-awaited review of regional policy ordered by the Government last year and is apparently giving rise to much opposition both among other ministers and in the West Midlands.

The danger, the opponents maintain, is that the Government will once again fall into the trap of providing aid on a non-selective geographical basis. The Linwood factory failed, and placed in jeopardy the British Steel Corporation's Ravenscraig works, because it was too far

from the traditional centre of motor industry output. The Rootes experience is, unfortunately, not unique and now, simply to pour money into a region in a non-discretionary fashion must, during a recession, be foolish.

Who would be attracted to the West Midlands if it got down-and-out status? Some companies bribed into the wilderness in the past would return to the Midlands like a shot if the non-discretionary 15 per cent grants became available. But that would do little to help in the long-term creation of a new industrial structure.

The regional policy review, begun last year by a team headed by Mr Michael Quinlan, then a deputy secretary at the Treasury and now permanent secretary at the Department of Employment, will be complete by next month or November and any new regional legislation is not expected before next year.

The importance of the study, now being led by Mr Quinlan's successor, Mr John Bacon, cannot be over-emphasized. As the country emerges from the horrors of recession, getting regional policy right will be crucial to industrial revival.

And the West Midlands is the key. Not only is it at the heart of the nation's communications network, it also has a long and deep tradition of hard-work skills and a flexible workforce. More than a third of a million jobs have been lost in the last three years.

"Mr West Midlands", the junior industry minister, Mr John Butcher, said to favour a radical rethink of regional aid. This could involve the dismantling of the present policy, which discriminates against regions like the West Midlands, and using the funds thus freed to provide selective industrial aid.

There are, of course, grants available for the introduction of robots and micro-electronics and while these may be of benefit, for example, to the motor industry, they are not designed specifically for it.

Assistance towards a rationalization of the motor component sector - one of the West Midlands mainstays - coupled with, say, new cars, is a more significant aid on a non-selective geographical basis. The Linwood factory failed, and placed in jeopardy the British Steel Corporation's Ravenscraig works, because it was too far

Edward Townsend

Large financial table with multiple columns containing stock market data, including 'Authorized Units & Insurance Funds' and various company shares.

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

BP shares rally by 8p

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Sept 5. Dealings end, Sept 16. Contango Day, Sept 19. Settlement Day, Sept 26.

Dealers sighed with relief yesterday when the expected details of the Government's £50m sell-off of shares in BP failed to materialize. But with the details now expected next week investors withdrew to the sidelines.

Shares of BP spent a less anxious day, rallying 8p to 438p after the announcement of its proposed sale of 12 per cent of its cherished stake in the Forties Field, which is expected to raise £250m.

Elsewhere, prices barely stirred with the FT Index closing 1.2 up at 713.6, having opened 2.4 up. Among leading industrials, BICC was up to 331p after figures, Associated Dairies rose 2p to 172p, BOC Group 3p to 227p, Cadbury Schweppes 2p to 100p, and Thera fell 10p to 795p. Grand Metropolitan 3p to 322p, Hawker Siddeley 4p to 298p and Bawater 2p to 213p.

It was again left to Government securities to make all the running in the belief that there will be a cut soon in interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic. This comes after the better-than-expected money supply figures this week.

Rises of about 50p were reported in longs, but by the close

this had been trimmed by 25p on profit-taking.

The Government broker had been able to supply more top stocks, despite issuing three tranches totalling £300m on Wednesday.

On the foreign exchange the

source of the leaks and the Stock Exchange said it was launching a routine preliminary inquiry.

Shares of Exploration Oil & Gas, the Irish exploration group, rose a further 20p to 295p yesterday helped by a single large buyer from Dublin who prepared to pay generously for the shares.

Apparently the group has made a large oil find in Columbia and one broker estimates the shares could hit 400p a share by the end of this account. The market is now waiting anxiously for more details.

On the Unlisted Securities Market shares of Savring Ram, the bathroom and kitchen equipment manufacturer, showed no sign of running out of steam. The shares rose 10p to 164p on the back of a recent bullish broker's circular commending the shares.

On Monday the shares stood at 140p compared with April's placing price of 105p.

Little Arden Electrical added 2p to 180p still benefiting from this

week's visit to brokers Kemp Mitchell who think the shares still have some way to go.

Eagle Star has certainly been put at the centre of a number of rumours this week. According to market pundits the German

Broker Illingworth & Henriques has produced a buy circular on Securicard Group urging purchase of the shares at the current level. The group is well on target to meet the £500,000 forecast in the current year and according to Illingworth should achieve £700,000 in 1984. The shares rose 1p to 136p yesterday after 133p - almost unchanged on May's placing price of 134p.

Insurance group Allianz is about to sell its 30 per cent stake in Eagle to a South African buyer, who will then bid 700p a share for the remainder, valuing the entire company at £946m.

Meanwhile, Allianz would in turn bid for BTR's subsidiary, Cornhill Insurance, which Tho-

mas Tilling was prepared to part with as part of its defence against the unwanted attentions of BTR.

Last night a spokesman for Eagle Star said, "You have nearly woven together all the rumours we have heard. Shares of Eagle Star are unchanged at 438p, while BTR lost 2p to 534p."

Starts of Scottish & Newcastle were a firm feature climbing 3p to 85p after a broker's visit to the company on Wednesday. The analyst appeared impressed with what he saw and had upgraded his full-year profits forecast from £46m to £50m, compared with £41m last time.

The hotel side of the business is booming in London and the provinces, while beer volume in May and June was ahead of last year. The long dry summer could result in beer sales 10 per cent up last month.

Close observers now estimate there could be as much as a 12p rise in the share price - still shy of the year's high.

The electrical analysts are recommending investors to switch from Plessey into Rascal as the Plessey price continues to lose ground. This was good news for Rascal yesterday, 10p up at 232p, but Plessey managed only a 2p rise to 198p.

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for issue name, price, and yield.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns for fund name, price, and yield.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns for country, price, and yield.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns for authority name, price, and yield.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns for bank name, price, and yield.

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS table with columns for company name, price, and yield.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns for company name, price, and yield.

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FAMILY MONEY LORNA BOURKE THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS EVERY SATURDAY

Troubled Sturles hopes for listing

Portals Hotel

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Table showing Sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies.

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Euro-Deposits

Table showing Euro-Deposits for various banks and terms.

Gold

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Table of company shares with columns for company name, price, and yield.

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MINES

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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Table of property companies and their shares.

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UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities.

Large table of unlisted securities with columns for company name, price, and yield.

Trojan Fen exit eases the task for Lear Fan

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

With £25,000 added to the sweepstakes, the Laurent Perrier Champagne Stakes is the most valuable race at Doncaster today. But sadly, it has been ruined as a spectacle. Until the rain arrived yesterday there was every chance that this group two race for two-year-olds would be every bit as absorbing as tomorrow's St Leger as it would be a key pointer to next year's classics involving both Lear Fan and Trojan Fen, both of whom were unbeaten.

As such, it looked a race of singular significance. However, the poignancy was not in thin air yesterday when Henry Cecil decided late in the afternoon to withdraw Trojan Fen on account of the changed state of the going which has been brought about by several hours of rain on a heavily watered course.

While some will argue, with a lot of justification, that good horses ought to be able to race on any kind of going other than the extremes to be fair to Cecil he has always maintained throughout the summer that Trojan Fen can only give of his best when the ground is firm so much so that it happens to know that the colt might spring badly in the spring when sprawling and losing his action on soft ground.

When he won at Newbury in July he even wore a protective boot over that joint just in case he

knocked it again and irritated the old injury.

With more than 100 two-year-olds in his care, Cecil has had by far the best of the exchanges in races of this nature for most of this season but even before yesterday's downpour, when the ground was still favouring Trojan Fen, it had become apparent to many that he might, for once, come off second best... because of Lear Fan's presence in the field.

Lear Fan has created an enormously favourable impression on both his appearances in public, which have been at Newmarket each time. He won both races by a comfortable margin, eight lengths, and each time he gave the impression that he would still have won had he been pulling a cart.

The second of those performances on August 27 was arguably the more significant because Lear Fan was giving 11lb to all his opponents whereas his previous race was a level-weight affair.

Those experienced race readers who couple Lear Fan's name with the word 'unbeaten' are not prone to describing performances as being very impressive without there being good cause. So the fact that they used those words about the way that Lear Fan trounced Gold & Ivory puts the result in a very exciting light.

My information is that Lear Fan is thought to be better at

Sun Princess stays on Leger course

By Michael Seely

Sun Princess remains a definite runner for the St Leger despite the steady downpour at Doncaster yesterday. This was the message spelled out loud and clear by Dick Hern after the royal trainer had won the May Hill Stakes with Satinette.

"The ground was heavy when the filly finished second to Sid Sealing at Newbury," he said in the Yorkshire Oaks and said that Dick Epsom was nearly abandoned before she won the Oaks by 12 lengths.

There must, however, be some doubts about Lear Fan's participation. Robert Sangster had warned on Wednesday that the winner of the French Derby and the Hennessy and Hedges Gold Cup might be withdrawn in the event of bad weather. "We want to run and will not make a final decision until closer to the time," he said. "We have no point in riding a horse with Lear Fan's speed over a mile and three-quarters in the mud."

Mr Sangster must be right. And when intentions are made clear in public, the punters and the press have been surprised with the latest information. Ladbrokes's still offer 13-8 against Sun Princess and 2-1 against Lear Fan.

The final stage of the ground will clearly be determined by the weather. "It's a bit rich at the moment," said Satinette's jockey Willie Carson. He commented: "If there's no more rain, it could well become good to firm again."

Satinette expressed little difficulty in reversing the Waterford Cauldron Stakes placing with Shoot Clear on 7th best terms.

Flying ahead each of the straight, Ford Fanchon, Shirley Field and 51st best Nepula by one and a half lengths with Shoot Clear, the 7-4

favourite, the same distance away third.

"She did that very well," said Major Frank "Satinette" will run in either the Hoover Filles' Mile at Ascot or the Prix Marcel Boussac at Longchamp. Talking about Shoot Clear, Michael Stoute said: "I had my doubts beforehand about her terms, but Walter Swinburn is adamant that the going beat the filly."

Earlier in the afternoon both Stoute and Swinburn had stood in the winner's enclosure after Karadur had given the Newmarket trainer his first victory in the Doncaster Cup. Swinburn recalled himself on the Aga Khan's game and consistent four-year-old by sealing a decisive advantage as the field straightened out for home.

"If a horse carried a group race it's a horse," said the trainer. "The jockey, the Club Cup, but he's going to be trained for the Cup races in 1984." Mountain Lodge was under pressure early in the straight and could only finish third.

Two miracles of survival made the headlines. Sandy Barclay, the 'wonder-boy' jockey of the 60s, made a surprise comeback when winning the Kingston Park Stakes on Annie Edge of the astute Welsh trainer Derek Haydn Jones and Out of Hand, the colt who was so badly injured at Brighton and Newmarket last year, was seen to have sped eight months in his box during the winter, best in form and Melinda in the Portland Handicap.

Richard Piggott and Sandy Barclay, the jockey and the old magic touch was apparent as the Scotman produced Annie Edge with a perfectly-timed run to catch Lester Piggott and Shirley Field.

"He may not suit everyone, but he'll do for me," said Haydn Jones.

Top flight Torrance takes off with seven birdies and an eagle

From Mitchell Platt, Crans-sur-Sierre

The relief of being virtually assured of his Ryder Cup place spurred the game Sam Torrance to a 60, a score which has not been achieved since he was sponsored by Ebel on the Crans-sur-Sierre course here yesterday. His 63, nine under-par, was a work of art and it provided further evidence of his abundant talents and his value to any team which can afford to have the Americans in October.

In full flow Torrance is one of the most marvellous sights on a golf course. It is not simply the sheer power with which he dispatches the ball but the fine control that he brings to the club, the driver with which he can power a ball more than 300 yards in the rarefied air of this 4,000ft high Alpine resort, he seems to have the ball on a string.

Since his success in the Scandinavian Open in July the lucky Scot has struggled to score well even though there was little wrong with his game from tee to green.

Torrance has been brilliant in putting strokes in the business, but for no accountable reason his touch vanished. So he turned to his father, Bob, who is the professional at the club, and he was able to put his father's golf bag, taking 'permanent loan' of a centre shaft putter which on Monday he had fitted with a stiffer shaft by Jerry Pyle, who was much respected in the art of refurbishing golf clubs.

By rationing himself to only 28 puts Torrance emphasised that the change of putter was worked a treat. What was more impressive, however, was the manner in which he struck the ball. He made hardly a single error on a marvelous day to have set his eyes on such a scenic setting.

Torrance collected his seven birdies and an eagle, the latter achieved with a curving putt of fully 40ft in the 12th hole in the middle of his

round. He illustrated his enormous power by driving the seventh (320 yards) and almost reaching the 16th (328 yards) although he insisted that to break 60 would require immense good fortune.

Even so the lowest scoring of the summer is so often achieved when the tour comes to this course. In 1960 the Italian, Balzo Vito Dassu managed a 60, a score which still stands as the lowest in the history of the European tour and in 1978 the Spaniard Jose Canizares established a world record with 11 birdies and an eagle in succession spread across two rounds.

High Bionchi, of South Africa, might challenge this particular record today, but he finished his opening round with five consecutive birdies.

A similar streak of scoring is what Nick Faldo (70) and Severiano Ballesteros (72) will need to apply tomorrow on Torrance, although Sandy Lyle arrived late in the day but compiling an excellent 64.

On no less than three occasions Lyle was putting for eagles, and it was his putter that let him down, at the last hole where he missed from two feet to tie the lead. Even so, he collected eight birdies in a round which suggests that he has finally regained his form following a long spell in the hospital after his success in the Madrid Open at the start of the year.

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Torrance: in full flow

Doncaster

Draw advantage: 5 and 81, high numbers best.
Tote Double: 3.15, 4.15, Treble: 2.45, 3.45 and 4.45.
T.J.Vision: (TV) 2.15, 2.45 and 3.15 races.

2.15 MINING SUPPLIES STAKES (2-y-c; £2,500; 6f) (16 runners)

1 ALWAYS NATIVE (M Fagan) 8-1
2 BELLING (M Lyle) 10-1
3 BELLY (M Lyle) 10-1
4 BELLING (M Lyle) 10-1
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14 BELLY (M Lyle) 10-1
15 BELLY (M Lyle) 10-1
16 BELLY (M Lyle) 10-1

2.45 TROY STAKES (3-y-c; £2,200; 1m) (4)

1 GAY LEADER (M Fagan) 8-1
2 GAY LEADER (M Fagan) 8-1
3 GAY LEADER (M Fagan) 8-1
4 GAY LEADER (M Fagan) 8-1

3.15 LAURENT PERRIER CHAMPAGNE STAKES (Group 1; 2-y-c; £21,940; 7f)

1 ALWAYS NATIVE (M Fagan) 8-1
2 BELLING (M Lyle) 10-1
3 BELLY (M Lyle) 10-1
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15 BELLY (M Lyle) 10-1
16 BELLY (M Lyle) 10-1

3.45 CHARITY DAY HANDICAP (selling; £2,200; 1m) (18)

1 ALWAYS NATIVE (M Fagan) 8-1
2 BELLING (M Lyle) 10-1
3 BELLY (M Lyle) 10-1
4 BELLING (M Lyle) 10-1
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18 BELLY (M Lyle) 10-1

Morby enjoys holiday win

Boozing gave the veteran jockey Frank Morby a fairytale ending to a fleeting visit from his new residence Kenya when leading all the way in the Dick Poole Stakes, at Salisbury yesterday.

Morby used to ride for Boozing's trainer, Mark Smyth and owner Dick Poole when he was based in the Cotswolds. Smyth explained: "Colony Poole was always terrifically loyal to Morby, and was my first boss."

Earlier in the week, Smyth was looking for a rider for his 9-1 chance Boozing when Morby dropped in as he left at Lambourn. "I couldn't believe it when Frank walked in," said Morby. "I've got a big offer from the owner on Morby's taken here on Wednesday, and they only got beaten two short heads, which kept his spirits up."

One of Morby's more notable moments came in the 1979 1,000 Guineas, when he rode Squire's Yanks into third place behind One In A Million.

Questions over winged keel 'no longer arise'

The winged keel of Australia II, which has caused such controversy during the America's Cup trials, continues to be wrapped in secrecy. Members of the New York Yacht Club committee, and syndicate heads from the rival Liberty defence camp, have been asked to get their first sight of the keel today when the two 12-metre are lifted out of the water for their final measurement checks.

"This is not a re-measurement, merely a check that flotation marks and air pressure correspond with our certificates," Warren Jones, director of Alan Bond's Australia II syndicate, said yesterday. "Questions over the keel shape or design no longer arise, and we intend to keep this matter very, probably until after the Cup series."

The New York Yacht Club also appear to be making little headway with their efforts to prove that Australia II was designed by the Australian architect, Peter Eason, by a team of Dutchmen, headed by Dr Peter van Oossanen, from the Netherlands ship model basin.

Charges by Richard S. Latham, member of the American Cup selection committee, that Dr van Oossanen had admitted to him that J. W. Slooff, from the Netherlands aerospace laboratory, and not

Champions opt to sit it out

Chris Cairns and Scott Anderson, the new Tornado class world champions, had no need to compete in the final race, and did not do so when the series finished at Hayling Island yesterday. They had already established an unbeatable points total after the first four races, and left their 60 rivals to fight for second place.

Not all of them kept aloft on a wet and windy day. While the more wind might have led to yet another abandoned race in this hard-hit series, sponsored by Lombard, several boats capsized, one broke in half and three were mangled by other early retirements.

At last, some British crews figured among the prize winners: Reg White, crewed by Olle, finished second, and his son, Robert, crewed by Campbell-James, took third place.

FIFTH RACE: 1. M. Pethel and W. Schlegel (Australia); 2. Reg White and S. Olle (Sweden); 3. Campbell-James and R. White (Great Britain); 4. M. Pethel and W. Schlegel (Australia); 5. R. White and S. Olle (Sweden); 6. Campbell-James and R. White (Great Britain); 7. Reg White and S. Olle (Sweden); 8. Campbell-James and R. White (Great Britain); 9. Reg White and S. Olle (Sweden); 10. Campbell-James and R. White (Great Britain); 11. Reg White and S. Olle (Sweden); 12. Campbell-James and R. White (Great Britain); 13. Reg White and S. Olle (Sweden); 14. Campbell-James and R. White (Great Britain); 15. Reg White and S. Olle (Sweden); 16. Campbell-James and R. White (Great Britain); 17. Reg White and S. Olle (Sweden); 18. Campbell-James and R. White (Great Britain); 19. Reg White and S. Olle (Sweden); 20. Campbell-James and R. White (Great Britain); 21. Reg White and S. Olle (Sweden); 22. Campbell-James and R. White (Great Britain); 23. Reg White and S. Olle (Sweden); 24. Campbell-James and R. 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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Fiat fills another gap in its range

New contenders are arriving thick and fast in the already overcrowded and fiercely competitive medium car market. Making its debut at the Frankfurt Motor Show next week is the Fiat Regata, a much-needed replacement for the outdated Fiat 131 range which is better-known here as the Mirafiori. It goes on sale in Italy immediately but British buyers will have to wait until the spring.

The Wolfsburg engineers are putting their increasing 4 x 4 expertise to more down-to-earth use with a four-wheeled drive estate, the Passat Tetra. The Scirocco gets a new 16-valve version of the present 1.8 litre injected engine. It will accelerate to 62 mph in 8 seconds and has a top speed of more than 130 mph.

Sierra rumours

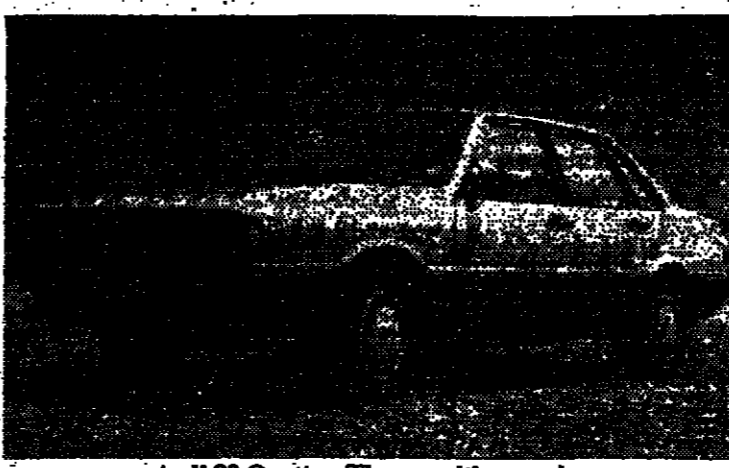
Ford's announcement this week of a new three-door version of the Sierra together with a few cosmetic touches for the 1984 five-door models may at last put an end to rumours that have been rife for months. Despite repeated denials by Ford, the grapevine insisted that Sierra's sleek shape had proved to be a little too way out for said Cortina buyers, and to rectify the position the company was rushing through a facelift.

From the brief details leaked by Fiat to what appetites for Frankfurt it seems there will be six versions of the Regata with 1,300cc, 1,498cc and 1,585cc (turbo-charged) petrol engines and a 1,714cc diesel.

Star billing

VW-Audi has already ensured star billing at Frankfurt by revealing that three exciting new versions of the Audi Quattro, VW Scirocco and Passat will appear there. The Quattro Sport is clearly an attempt to cash in on the four-wheel drive car's early successes. It is 12½ inches shorter than the standard Quattro making it in effect a very restricted two-plus-two coupe. Power comes from a 2.2 litre version of the existing five-cylinder engine fitted with a new alloy block, four valves per cylinder and turbo-charged to produce 300 bhp.

Extensive use is made of aluminium-reinforced Kevlar for lighter bodywork, while suspension, brakes



The Fiat Regata: Making its debut in Frankfurt

Audi 80 Quattro: Three exciting versions

compensating penalty, however, and the 525e will not win any prizes for overtaking if left in drive. Used manually - and the spring-loaded lever makes this child's play - it is no slouch. I resorted to this tactic fairly frequently for overtaking in circumstances where a quick burst of speed was the safest way.

Gentle BMW

A gentle encounter with BMW's remarkable new 525e earlier this year left me fingering with anticipation of a longer acquaintance. Now that I have spent a week with it covering nearly 1,200 miles of very mixed motoring I am convinced that BMW's courage in risking its reputation as a producer of fast, sports saloons by launching a slow-revving, economy model is going to pay off.

It will help readers if I recall some of the 525's salient points. The Munich engineers took the existing six-cylinder M20 engine, one of the freest-revving and most powerful 2/3 litre units around and, not to mince words, converted it into an old-fashioned slogger. In 2.7 litre form as installed in the new 5 series body it produces peak power of 125 bhp at only 4,250 rpm compared with over 6,000 for the standard engine.

Translated into on-the-road performance that means it will cruise at 70 mph while ticking over at a mere 2,000 rpm and will top 100 mph at around 3,000 rpm. No wonder the engineers chose the Greek letter Eta (efficiency) to label it and are already talking of it as the forerunner of a whole new line of fuel-efficient BMW's which will be produced in parallel with the existing range.

And that the surprising news that this is one of the very few energy-saving models with an automatic gearbox and the picture becomes even more exciting. But this is an automatic with a difference. The fourth gear is a long-legged overdrive which cuts out torque, converter loss with the help of a lock-up clutch.

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1976 Silver Shadow, P.P.S.H. (Personal Private Sale History). 1976. 25,000 miles. Full service history. 1976. 25,000 miles. Full service history.

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The Flat Regata: Making its debut in Frankfurt

and other running gear are derived from the rally programme. With that sort of start to life and an acknowledgement by the factory that there is plenty more power to come for the tuning brigade, it should make quite an impact on motor sports enthusiasts.

The Wolfsburg engineers are putting their increasing 4 x 4 expertise to more down-to-earth use with a four-wheeled drive estate, the Passat Tetra. The Scirocco gets a new 16-valve version of the present 1.8 litre injected engine. It will accelerate to 62 mph in 8 seconds and has a top speed of more than 130 mph.

From the brief details leaked by Fiat to what appetites for Frankfurt it seems there will be six versions of the Regata with 1,300cc, 1,498cc and 1,585cc (turbo-charged) petrol engines and a 1,714cc diesel.

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Tel: 01-730 2506 (evens)
01-482 0274 (office)

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General

FERRARI 400i

Manual
V Reg - Nov 82 - 5,000 miles
Celestis - Tan leather
Twin air-cond. - Blaupunkt N.Y.
£34,000
Eves/weekend 0203 513127

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THE CAR YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO OWN BUT NEVER THOUGHT YOU COULD AFFORD

1982 DELTA AT THE ALL INCLUSIVE ON THE ROAD PRICE OF £4,950

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Cadillac Seville - Elegance

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TRIUMPH STAG

Scientific lightweight construction with engine & auto gearbox mounted throughout & in-line room condition. £1,495.

Tel: Mr Cooper 01-489 5188 Box 157 at Upper Waltham Cross, Essex

FERRARI DINO

246 GT. 1974. 38,000 miles. Met blue. One owner. Immaculate condition. £10,500 o.n.p. Hills

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DATSUN 200Z T Reg.

41,000 miles. Excellent condition. Sun roof, stereo, 23,000.

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FIAT X19

Oct 1981. Met blue. 5,200 miles, normal extra inc. £4,400

Tel: 492 0110

ALFA SPYDER

Very beautiful condition. Acquired 1978. 23,000 miles. Zeta, engine, stereo, 23,000.

£5,400

01-825 5172 after 7pm or 0204 782 525 (week)

SAAB 900 TURBO

1980 V registration. Immac. condition. 21,000 miles. Sun roof, stereo, very good condition. £4,000. Blue. 0204 782 525 (week)

TRIMPH STAG

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